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Croatia, Serbia Agree to Normalize Relations Soon

VOULIAGMENI, Greece — The Croatian and Serbian presidents agreed Wednesday to normalize in the near future relations shattered in the breakup of the old Yugoslav Federation, a Yugoslav diplomatic source said here.

The decision to normalize relations "in the near future" is contained in a draft statement being prepared by the two delegations at talks in this resort near Athens, the source said.

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Rumors of Levy Resignation Mount

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Foreign Minister David Levy may resign if Premier Benjamin Netanyahu keeps shutting him out of decision-making on the peace process, close associates said in the Israeli media on Wednesday.

In a sign of the escalating dispute between the two long-time political rivals, Levy failed to attend a special Cabinet session called by Netanyahu early Wednesday, reportedly to discuss Israel's response to latest attacks on Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.

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U.S. Facing Outcry Over Iran-Libya Sanctions

China, Australia, France Join Outcry Against U.S.

BEIJING — China Wednesday joined a growing number of countries to attack Washington's decision to impose sanctions on non-U.S. companies that trade with Iran and Libya, saying the move will "do no good to the settlement of the problem."

"The U.S. act on intensifying sanction against Iran and Libya is not consistent with ... international relations and will do no good to the settlement of the problem," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"Nobody should frequently resort to sanctions or pressures to resolve such problems," the spokesman said, calling for a resolution "on the basis of mutual respect through dialogue and consultations held on an equal footing."

The Iran-Libya sanctions act requires U.S. President Bill Clinton to slap sanctions on foreign companies that invest more than $40 million annually in the Iranian and Libyan energy sectors.

Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, Russia and Switzerland have all protested the bill signed into law by Clinton on Monday.

European governments argue that the law violates international trade agreements and have vowed to retaliate against the measure, which is similar to another sanctions law punishing firms that do business in Cuba.

But the U.S. has reiterated its call to European countries to join in the drive to isolate Tehran and Tripoli, saying such action would make them eligible for a sanctions waiver.

France will take immediate counter-measures if French firms are affected by the U.S. D'amato Law threatening sanctions against non-U.S. firms investing in Iran and Libya, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

Alain Lamassoure told a Cabinet meeting that France will prepare "mirror" legislation "in order to be ready if need be" after the U.S. bill was signed into law by President Bill Clinton on Monday.

China, Australia and France on Wednesday joined a growing international outcry over Washington's decision to punish foreign companies which trade with Iran and Libya.

Australia will do "all it can to resist" the U.S. moves, Trade and Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer said. He would not say if his government would back moves to take the issue to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Australia believed threatened U.S. sanctions against innocent countries and companies were wrong in principle and could harm Australian trade, he said.

"Australia will continue to lodge its protest over the principle which sees the United States bring in yet another non-tariff barrier, restrict exports to the United States if they are not happy with what an overseas country is doing in a third country.

Japan said the law was "inconsistent with WTO rules, while Pakistan described it as unfortunate.

The United States decision to clamp sanctions on companies that do business with Iran and Libya could backfire on Washington and herald the "collapse of the unipolar world," Pakistani press reports warned Wednesday.

There has been "no evidence" that the governments of Libya and Iran were directly or indirectly involved in acts of terrorism, but the United States has chosen to indict them "unilaterally" and to proceed with penalizing them, an influential daily *Dawn* said.

The bill has wider implications which could prove "counter-productive and even backfire on Washington," *Dawn* said.

"If this is simply an election [illegible] designed to win votes, one wonders whether the U.S. will ever learn some of the basic points of international relationship and creative diplomacy," it said.

Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman stressed that "relations with Iran will remain unaf-

(Contd on Pg.14)

U.S. Frowns Upon Erbakan's Trip to Iran

WASHINGTON — The United States expressed disapproval Tuesday over a planned visit to Iran by Turkey's new Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and warned Ankara would not benefit from ties with Tehran.

"We have made very clear to the Turkish government that Iran is a state that should be isolated," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"We think that business-as-usual relations with Iran is not wise."

Erbakan, who became Turkey's head of government in June, flies to Tehran Saturday to

(Contd on Pg.14)

LEADER:

Iranian Diplomats Advocates of Islamic Values



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, the officials at the foreign ministry and the Iranian ambassadors and charges d'affaires called on the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei here Tuesday.

At the meeting, the Leader underlined the significant progress made in the foreign diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and viewed it as the outcome of the brave independence-seeking nature of the Islamic Revolution and the commitment of the Iranian officials to Islamic tenets and principles.

The grand ayatollah also termed the Iranian diplomatic corps abroad the advocates of the

(Contd on Pg.14)

Separatists Appear to Control Grozny

GROZNY — Separatists appeared to control most of the Chechen capital Grozny on Wednesday with Russian troops holed up in administrative buildings and, according to a spokesman, preparing a counter-offensive.

(Contd on Pg.14)



CROZNY, Chechnya, Russian-Federation (August 6): A wounded Russian solider is being evacuated from Grozny as hundreds of Chechens struck at the heart of Russian forces with fierce and coordinate attacks. Several districts of Grozny erupted with small-arms, machinegun and grenade fire as separtists attacked Russian positions, dashing tentative attempts by Russian negotiators to put the peace talks back on track.

(AFP PHOTO)

Turkey, Israel Postpone Signing of Defense Agreement

ANKARA — Turkey and Israel have postponed the signing of a cooperation agreement on defense technology due to be finalized during an upcoming visit by a senior Israeli official this week, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

"The preparations have not been concluded and the visit has been postponed," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nurettin Nurkan told a news briefing, referring to the planned visit by Israeli Defense Ministry's director General David Ivry.

The defense technology agreement will mark the second military cooperation deal between Turkey and Israel this year.

A February military training and cooperation agreement between Ankara and the Zionist state, allowing Israeli war planes to carry out training flights in Turkish air space, caused uproar in several Arab countries, most notably Syria.

Arab states and Iran accused Turkey of serving Israeli aims against the Arab nation.

However, Turkey says the accord is not aimed at any third country and that it has similar accords with some Arab states, including Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan and Syria.

Ankara and the Zionist state are also preparing to sign a 600-million-dollar deal under which a consortium led by Israeli aircraft industries would upgrade 54 aging F-4E Phantom fighter aircraft of the Turkish air force. *(AFP)*

Assad Rules Out Early Resumption of Peace Talks With Israel

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — Syrian President Hafez al-Assad on Wednesday turned down an Israeli offer for an immediate resumption of negotiations, charging the Zionist state was not committed to peace.

"We heard several days ago that (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu sent an appeal to Syria via the United States to resume negotiations, but without outlining a framework that would give peace a chance," Assad said.

"Reading this proposal, we do not feel that those who drew it up are committed to peace," the Syrian leader told a press conference in Egypt's Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

Assad was speaking after three hours of talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Assad insisted that talks must concern "Lebanon and Syria first, at the same time and as part of the same process."

"We are ready to resume negotiations on the basis of the Madrid Conference ... but we are in no hurry to reach a settlement which does not respond to our idea of peace," the Syrian leader said.

"When things are ready and the conditions appropriate, we will be ready to resume the peace process," he said.

"We hope that things will progress and people will see things differently and that we will no longer hear the sort of language

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In the Name of Allah

Most certainly then We will question those to whom (the apostles) were sent, and most certainly We will aslo question the apostles.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:6)

OPINION

Washington Is Alone

The much-vaunted new world order has yet to emerge from the ashes of the Cold War. Those countries still living on their perception of the previous international system will pay dearly for this naiveness.

The emerging world order does not totally disappoint those who realize the situation and try to find their real status in the changing international system.

In the aftermath of the collapse of the bipolar world order, almost all U.S. politicians envisaged that the ensuing world order would be a unipolar one--with the U.S. as its only world superpower. This is why the world has thus far witnessed unprecedented U.S. bullying attempts against independent countries.

At the same time other countries have shown that they have a better understanding of the emerging world order. It is, therefore, not surprising if the European Union adopts an independent stand towards Washington's bullying policies.

It is disgusting for the U.S.--once a world superpower--to be so ignorant of the real nature of the emerging world order, still dreaming of a unipolar world order under its leadership.

Most of Washington's absurd policies stem from the naivety of the incumbent of the White House, his advisors and the person in charge of the State Department. This is why almost all U.S. bullying policies have so far boomeranged on itself.

One of the most significant characteristics of the emerging world order is that it provides little room for bullying and blackmail. Hence, baseless accusations and unfounded charges against others for parochial, short-term gains do not work, for our world has become transparent in several aspects.

Probably most of the American citizens are not aware of the fact that their leaders are true servants of powerful Jewish lobby. The subservience of American politicians to the Jewish lobby has gone to the extent that the U.S. national interests have practically fallen prey to the appeasement of this lobby. It is a clear instance of humiliation of the American nation. Although the public may not be in a position to realize the depth of the tragedy, the American intelligentsia will not definitely remain indifferent vis-a-vis this tragic situation for a long time.

The U.S. sanction laws on Cuba, Libya and Iran have sparked the anger of its strategic allies and other powerful countries of the world. The strong reaction of U.S. allies to those dirty laws has proved that Washington is once again alone. It is time for the U.S. intelligentsia and the public to force the naive U.S. politicians to revise the sanction policy.

Persian Language Welcomed in Turkmenistan

ASHKHABAD — Persian language and literature courses held in Turkmenistan have been warmly welcomed by the Turkmen students.

According to an official in Iran's Culture House in Ashkhabad, at present over 450 university and school students of the city are attending the courses, adding that during last six months, some 160 students have successfully passed elementary Persian courses.

He also noted that 125 students are now busy studying Persian literature at the University of Dolat Mohammad Azadi in the city.

The Iranian Culture House in the city also offers books and stationary to students.

The students in Ashkhabad Persian classes are taught by Turkmen professors of Persian language. Four of these teachers were sent to Iran on Sunday in a bid to upgrade thier language mastership.

(IRNA)

Ruhani: U.S. Sanctions Against Iran Doomed to Fail

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The new U.S. law calling for sanctions against foreign companies that do oil business with Iran are doomed to fail, said Majlis Vice Speaker and the Secretary of the Supreme Council for National Security, Hojjatoleslam Hassan Ruhani, here yesterday.



Addressing a group of Iranian diplomatic representatives abroad, he underlined that the Foreign Ministry and the Iranian diplomats play a pivotal role in forging the country's foreign policy and preserving its national security.

Regarding the world's reaction towards the decision made by the U.S. Congress, Ruhani pointed out that the U.S. sanctions were faced with the opposition from all U.S. allies.

Elaborating on other hostile policies of the United State against Iran in the past, Ruhani recalled that the United States has so far imposed such sanctions on Iran for three times, but to no avail.

The first time, the United States imposed its sanctions on Iran in the wake of the victory of the Islamic Revolution through freezing Iranian assets in that country.

Seven years later, the U.S. administration imposed a trade ban on Iran. The third time, it decided to take punitive measures against the companies trading with Iranian oil and gas industries and banned the American companies from purchasing Iranian oil, Ruhani added.

He further underscored that the

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Majlis Speaker on Tour of East Azarbaijan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri arrived in Tabriz, East Azarbaijan, on Wednesday on the first leg of his six-day visit to the province.

He was accorded warm welcome with revolutionary slogans in support for the leadership of the Islamic Republic.

The speaker delivered a speech to a large gathering of people in Takhti Stadium of Tabriz, an IRNA report said.

In his address, he said that the United States is the main backer of global terrorism and supports the Zionist regime, the founder of terrorism in the world.

He said the recent decision of the U.S. President Bill Clinton on adopting tougher measures to isolate Iran is originated from weakness and ignorance. Such conspiracies have been doomed to failure.

Hojjatoleslam Nateq Nouri said the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate with international forums to combat terrorism and would apply as the number one member if the United Nations formed a special commission to go on anti-terrorism campaign.

U.S. Sanctions Bill Against Iran, Libya Condemned Worldwide

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The U.S. law on imposing sanctions against Iran and Libya was condemned by different countries and political parties throughout the world.

India's ruling United Front (UF) coalition and its largest constituent, Janata Dal (JD), condemned the U.S. decision to impose sanctions against the companies the world over investing more than $40 million a year in Iran's oil and gas projects.

According to IRNA, the spokesman of the UF and the JD, Jaipal Reddy, on Wednesday told IRNA, "The United Front certainly does not approve of such unilateral action on a multilateral issue."

Describing the U.S. action as a "case of eating more than one can chew," Reddy said that sanctions would not work. Even America's European allies had taken a strong exception to the U.S. extra-territorial action.

On whether the Indian government will officially condemn the U.S. action, Reddy said, "The issue is yet to come under the government's consideration but I can assure you that our government cannot, but be unhappy over this development."

The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) has urged the Indian government to express solidarity with Iran by strongly condemning the American move to impose sanctions on companies all over the world engaged in doing business with Iran in oil and gas sectors.

"India should side with Iran at this hour and condemn an act which is illegal, uncalled for and aims at punishing the two countries for their opposition to American imperialism," Harkishan Singh Surjeet, the general secretary of the CPI-M, told IRNA on Wednesday.

The U.S. move amounted to blackmailing the entire world to toe the American line on Iran and Libya, said Surjeet.

"We are opposed to all such actions by an imperialist power against a freedom-loving country," he added.

He said that it was heartening to note that no country, including America's European allies, were willing to oblige the U.S. on the issue of sanctions against Iran and

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Tremor Jolts Khonj District

KHONJ, Fars Province — An earthquake, measuring five degrees on the open-ended Richter scale, shook Larestan's Khonj district, south of this southern province, at 00:57 hours local time on Wednesday.

The seismological base of Shiraz, affiliated to the Geophysics Institute of Tehran University, registered the epicenter of the quake 240 km south of the provincial capital of Shiraz.

The tremor, felt at Khonj district and its nearby villages, caused no damage or casualty.

Another earthquake, measuring 5.4 degrees, also jolted the same area on May 24 causing damage to the old quarters of the district.

(IRNA)

Besharati Warns KDP to Stop Plotting Against Kurds

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Iran's Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati here Tuesday warned the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) to stop plotting against the Kurdish people of the region and cautioned them not to fall into the trap of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution.

Reviewing in a meeting the security condition of the western part of the country, he underlined that the Islamic Republic is determined to totally quell any insurgence and plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and counter any incursion, intrusion and infiltration into the Iranian territory, an IRNA report said.

Political and military impacts of the recent operation in curbing the insurgence of KDP elements in the region by selfsacrificing armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were also reviewed at the meeting.

The chief of Iran's Security Council stated that investments and valuable services of the government in the country specifically in the western Iranian Province of Kurdestan was successful, hoping that security would prevail in the province to bring about peace and well being of the people and stability for the region.

He thanked the Kurds for cooperating with the government in bringing about peace, stability and security in addition to their efforts in the reconstruction of the country.

Fazlallah Calls For Unveiling Terrorist Nature of U.S.

BEIRUT — Head of the Islamic Human Rights Commission Ayatollah Bojnourdi outlined the function of his commission in a meeting with senior Lebanese Islamic scholar Allameh Seyed Mohammad Hossein Fazlallah.



Fazlallah said at the meeting, also attended by Iran's Charge d'Affaires to Lebanon Mohammad Irani, that the commission was a natural response to the U.S. claims on human rights.

He underlined the need for revealing the terrorist nature of the U.S. before the world, which has had harmful influence and detrimental effect over the issue of the rights of the oppressed nations, especially those in the Third World.

Bojnourdi condemned the atrocious crime committed on the defenseless civilians which left over 120 fallen martyrs- unprotected women, pious children and the old_aged men at the refugee camp adjecent to the United Nations Peace-Keeping Forces in Qana, Southern Lebanon.

He added that such an act was a proof of the criminal nature of the Zionist cruel entity.

(IRNA)

Iran's Mission Releases Communique on U.S. Charges

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The Press Department of the Islamic Republic of Iran's mission to the United Nations released an official communique on Tuesday.

According to an IRNA report from the United Nations, New York, the communique reads as follows:

"*USA Today*'s allegation about the existence of terrorist camps in Iran echoes the disinformation campaign by Israeli secret service and the desperate attempts by an Iranian terrorist organization in Iraq."

A new round of accusations against Iran, of which the *USA Today* article is but one, like the havoc raised against Iran after the bombing in Argentina, will dissipate shortly.

Like the Argentine incident, the real culprits will likely be found.

However, the victimization of Iran in public opinion by irresponsible and politically motivated propaganda will more than likely continue so long as the Islamic Republic of Iran refuses to surrender to American pressure and hegemony.

The Islamic Republic of Iran rejects in the strongest possible terms the existence of any camp in Iran for terrorist training.

In this connection, it is important to note that Iran's strength lies not in training any terrorists in Iran or supporting international terrorism but in its unwavering commitment to the principle of rejecting both hegemony and hegemonization.

That principle is enshrined in the egalitarian tenets of Islam.

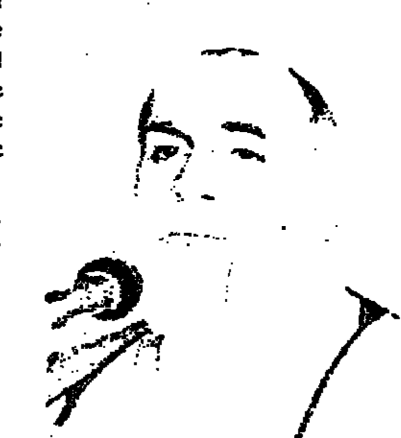
There is strength in this commitment and message which cannot be prevailed over by propagandist defamation or threat. It is a reality of out time which needs to be understood and accomodated in the context of shared responsibility for peaceful coexistence".

Speaker: Labor Ministry Should Protect Interests of Economic Forces Overseas

TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri said here Tuesday that the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry should guarantee the interests of and probe into the problems of the "economic forces" outside the country.

Hojatoleslam Nateq Nouri, who made the remark in a meeting with the Labor and Social Affairs Minister Hossein Kamali and officials in charge of Iran's Labor and Social Ministry's attaches abroad, touched on the significance of the extraterritorial dissemination of revolution and its values.

He said that Iran would witness inflow of hard currencies and that the economy would be no more dependent on oil in light of a cohesion between Iranian working forces outside the country.



He called for activation of Iranian labor representative bureaus outside and expressed hope that the Fifth Majlis would investigate the issue in a more comprehensive form. *(IRNA)*

Azerbaijan to Take Part in Tabriz Exhibition

BAKU — The Republic of Azerbaijan is to participate in the one-week international exhibition on environment, to be held in Tabriz, capital of Iran's East Azarbaijan Province in October.

This was announced by head of the Azeri State Committee for Environment Aref Mansurev in a meeting with the Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Baku, Afshar Soleymani, here on Tuesday.

The exhibition aims to increase public awareness on various aspects and dimensions of evnvironment, exchange information among experts of different countries and promote international cooperation for protection of environment. *(IRNA)*

NIOC Official: Talks With Foreign Companies Continue

TEHRAN — Preliminary talks with foreign companies on five off-shore oil projects, on international tenders since last November, are still going on and the U.S. embargo has had no effect, a morning daily wrote Wednesday, quoting Esmail Jalilian, an official at the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

The Persian daily *"Iran"* also quoted Jalilian as summing up the activities of the French oil company, Total, at "A" and "E" oil fields off the Iranian island of Sirri in the Persian Gulf.

In order to expand the project, the NIOC with participation of a Malaysian oil company has signed an agreement with Total, he added.

The Sirri "A" oil field will start pumping oil by January 1998 and Sirri "E" oil field by early 1999, Jalilian said, adding by the year 2000 both fields will reach the projected maximum output.

The agreement to expand the two Sirri oil fields was inked by Total and NIOC last August and the projected daily production of both oil fields is 120,000 barrels.

Some $610 million has been invested on the project.

He said that Total is making a good progress at the Sirri oil fields.

The NIOC official stated that test drilling is one of the stages of the work on the project and building of sea platforms will soon follow. *(IRNA)*

Over 4 Million kg of Agricultural Products Exported From Anzali

BANDAR ANZALI, Gilan Prov. — A total of 4,946,000 kg of various kinds of agricultural products, valued at Rls.5 billion, has been exported via this northern port city since March 20.

Director of the local Agriculture Organization Amir Vahabi said here Tuesday that the products, including fresh fruits, macaroni, garlics, cotton and raisins, were exported to the Central Asian republics and the Persian Gulf littoral states. *(IRNA)*

EU Energy Commissioner: U.S. Bill Will Create Problems for Europe

ATHENS — European Energy Commissioner Christos Papoutsis expressed "deep concern" over U.S. legislation signed by President Bill Clinton on Monday, which calls for sanctions by Washington on foreign companies investing in energy projects in Libya or Iran, Greek news agency ANA reported yesterday.

"I should like to express my deep concern over the D'amato law. When it comes into force, it will create major problems for the European oil industry," said Papoutsis, who is a Greek.

"According to the information we have, buisness transactions in oil are not included in the list of sanctions and so there will not be any direct consequences on trade."

Papoutsis pointed out that the EU imported 80 percent of its crude oil, of which 20 percent is from Libya and Iran, while oil imports covered only 50 percent of U.S. requirements, supplied mainly by Venezuela, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Norway.

"We must not forget that the oil market is a world market. Consequently, any action which effects the market should be taken after international consultations.

"Any interruption of the volumes of oil being imported in the world market from Libya and Iran would have a backlash not only on prices but also on the volumes being transacted, since these two countries account for 10 percent of the world oil market," he said.

Papoutsis stressed that the European Commission was in favor of dialogue rather than trade "reprisals," particularly when the latter was seen by national legislation with international repercussions and application. *(IRNA)*

Iran, Turkey's Private Sectors to Expand Commercial Ties

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Director of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Ali Naqi Khamooshi, met here yesterday with Turkish Ambassador to Tehran, Mithat Balkan.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed every possible means of promoting commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to the upcoming visit of Turkish President Soleyman Demirel to Iran, the Turkish diplomat pointed out that the visit would boost both countries' cooperation in the commercial field.

He further elaborated on the high potential for Iranian and Turkish trade, saying such potential has not been fully explored, describing the two countries' commercial ties as unsatisfactory in recent years.

The Turkish ambassador referred to key measures taken by his government to expand joint-venture agreements between the two countries.

Balkan expressed hope that the upcoming Irano-Turkey Seminar on Trade Development would provide the two countries' trade partners with an opportunity to exchange views on the expansion of commercial relations.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce director called for wider cooperation among businessmen of both countries' private sectors, saying that solving trade-related problems through friendly negotiation would be the best way for promoting commercial ties.

In conclusion, Khamooshi termed competition as crucial in boosting commercial relations, and called for the setting up of a joint chamber of commerce between Iran and Turkey which would help iron out many problems in commercial dealings.

Construction Jihad Prepares Draft of Oil-Free Economic Plan

TEHRAN — Construction Jihad Ministry has prepared the draft of an "economy without oil" plan and is soon to hand it to the authoritative officials.

The plan has forecast implementation of giant projects, including ones in the area of research, for a period of 25 years in order to attain an economy independant of oil.

Deputy Construction Jihad Minister for Education and Research Mohammad-Taqi Amanpour said here Tuesday that under the plan, jobs would be created for about ten million by the year 1400 (Starting March 21, 2021), which is expected to gain a value-added of over $50 billion.

Amanpour said that Iran was selected to host the 8th. International Conference on Rain Water Catchment System in light of support by international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) due to Iran's achievements in the area of research on redirection of flood waters into water reservoir and in light of winning a scientific rivalry and competition with the U.S.

He added that the conference, to be held here in May, could be the biggest global scientific event which Iran holds after triumph of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The Iranian official said that after winning two top prizes inside, the Information Dissemination and Scientific Service Center at the ministry managed to stand first in the list of information dissemination centers in the Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa, recieving the internationally Honored Prize of Nexus.

Amanpour said that Razi Institute, affiliated to the ministry, managed to raise its biological products from 950 million doses to 2.6 billion doses within the years 1370 (March 21, 1991-March 20, 1992) to 1374 (March 21, 1995- March 19, 1996).

The ministry, he added, had accomplished research on four new vaccins both for human beings and animals, introducing them for mass production.

Furthermore, Amanpour said that his ministry had completed research on a strategic scientific project for use of potteries and pottery pipelines in underground plumbing.

He added that operations for implementation of the project was underway by his ministry in cooperation with a German university, the Agriculture Faculty of Karaj (30 kms west of Tehran) and the Forests and Lands Research Institute. *(IRNA)*

700m Parcels Carried in Iran Per Year

TEHRAN — The number of mailed parcels delivered to their owners by the post company has risen to 700 million annually.

Director General of the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone (PTT) Davood Zareian said here Tuesday that the Post Company affiliated to the PTT Ministry offered more than 70 kinds of postal services to the public.

Based on statistics released by the Post Company, the number of post offices increased to 1,763 in urban and 7,695 in rural areas last year from 357 in urban and 1,958 in rural areas in the year 1357

Moreover, the number of post boxes rose to 25,513 in 1374 from 13,625 in 1357.

The time required for delivery of parcels also decreased to 37 hours per year last year from 95 hours per year in 1357. *(IRNA)*

Rls.21 Billion Allocated to Transport Cooperatives

TEHRAN — Transport cooperatives in Iran were credited with some Rls.21 billion last year (ended March 20), it was announced here on Tuesday.

According to the Public Relations Department of the Ministery of Cooperatives of Iran, some 79 transport cooperatives were set up last year, 75 of which are operating in land and the other four in maritime transport.

According to the department, a total of 14 construction, development and completion projects on terminals of cooperative companies were launched by the Ministery of Cooperatives during the period.

Also, the number of the vehicles renovated or added to the fleet of the ministery rose to 14,586 last yeat. *(IRNA)*



This Week: Kimiai's "ZIAFAT" (The Feast)

Friendship Overcomes Difficulties Regardless of Everything

Synopsis:

On the last day of the academic year, seven high school friends make an appointment to come together after ten years on a certain day at the same place.

During this period, the Islamic Revolution occurs and the event turns the pages of the books of lives of these men differently. On the agreed date, all friends, save one, turn out at the appointment. The absent friend is legally engaged in a case of large of fraud. Another one of the friends- a policeman, helps him out of the abyss he feels to be cooped up in...

Review:

Masoud Kimiyaie gained his reputation right after directing his debut film, *Qeisar* (The Caesar). In his last film, *Ziafat*, He has repeated the same thought and general mood which brought him success in his first film.

Fraternity and friendship are the permanent characteristics of Masoud Kimiyaie's works, all in all.

Friendship of seven youngsters at a bar and setting a certain date for ten years later in the same place, is a sensational expression of human relations.

The theme is somehow unrealistic though. How could it be possible for these close friends not to meet each others even once during the 10-year period between the two sensational meetings if they really are so close friends as the director tries to convey?

Like other productions of Kimiyaie, this renowned Iranian director, he does not introduce the characters of its personalities clearly enough.

In *Ziafat* we are encountered with the present, surface characteristics of the friends, but we do not know anything about their inner personalities.

Such a surface view about the personality of the characters makes the film incapable of attracting the trust of the audience.

At best, it can merely motivate their sensations.

Although the idea on which the film is made is not new and original, so many positive points could be observed in the production of this beautiful film, including its powerful direction, a professional recording and good lighting.



Simple Life, Not Little Green Men, Existed on Mars: NASA

WASHINGTON — A simple, microscopic form of life that resembles bacteria may have existed on Mars some three billion years ago, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced Tuesday.

Evidence of life on the red planet was found in a meteorite from Mars that landed on earth about 13,000 years ago, said NASA administrator Daniel Goldin in a statement.

"The evidence is exciting, even compelling, but not conclusive," Goldin said.

"I want everyone to understand that we are not talking about 'little green men.' These are extremely small, single-cell structures that somewhat resemble bacteria on earth," he said. "There is no evidence or suggestion that any higher life form ever existed on Mars."

In London, the BBC reported quoting from a leaked NASA report that the meteorite — which was discovered in Antarctica in 1984 — contains crude fossils from primitive micro-organisms.

Under a powerful microscope, NASA scientists saw shapes on the melon-sized meteorite which looked like tiny bacteria that lived on earth some 3.5 billion years ago, according to the BBC.

The meteorite from Mars is believed to have blasted away from the red planet's surface during a violent storm, and any primitive forms of martian life could have hitched to earth.

British scientists at the natural history museum in London have also studied fragments of the meteorite and found remnants of organic material possibly from underground water reserves.

Mars boasts a number of dried river beds and it is thought that subterranean pools could provide a home for simple life forms.

A scientist at the natural history museum said the findings, if correct, were some of the most sensational in scientific history.

"It's entirely possible that very, very primitive organisms might have arisen," Monica Grady told the BBC.

"I'm not talking about ammonites or corals or anything like that but something incredibly primitive such as micro-fossils from highly primitive organisms. it's absolutely fascinating to find these," she added.

NASA is planning to launch two unmanned space probes to Mars later this year. It plans to send the Mars Global Survey and the Mars Pathfinder in November and December, respectively.

The decade-long missions are designed to answer questions about the role of water in Mars' early evolution and whether the planet could have supported life at the beginning of its existence.

In the summer of 1976, two U.S. Viking probes landed on Mars, and the scientific community held its breath in hopes of discovering evidence of life on the planet, but were disappointed.

Although no evidence of organic life was found on the red planet, analysis of Mars' atmosphere and soil uncovered carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen and phosphorus — essential elements for organic life on earth. (AFP)

Star TV News Presenter Attacks Freelance Photographer

PARIS— France's top TV news presenter has been accused of attacking a photographer taking secret pictures of him while on holiday, according to the daily *Liberation* Wednesday.

Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, who anchors the main evening news on the private TF1 TV Channel, left photographer Frank Skorupan in hospital with a broken nose, head injuries and multiple bruising after the attack in Greece, it said.

The 30-year-old freelance photographer has lodged a formal complaint for theft and grievous bodily harm against Poivre d'Arvor and his brother Olivier over the attack on the island of Skyros on Saturday.

He told *Liberation* that the two brothers, noticing him taking clandestine photos at their holiday home, beat him up before seizing his camera equipment and films.

Poivre d'Arvor told the newspaper from Greece that the "story is completely laughable. All this to sell photos to the scandal sheets."

The Star journalist was suspended from appearing on television for three months earlier this year after he was convicted in a high-profile corruption case. (AFP)

Thais Moot Microchips to Slow Wildlife Trafficking

"Thai Bear on Verge of Extinction"



BANGKOK— Thai wildlife authorities are considering tagging bears with microchips in a bid to slow international trafficking in bear parts, an official of the Wildlife Fund-Thailand, Prayong Attachak, said Wednesday.

The microchip identity tags were suggested at a seminar here last weekend which reviewed measures to enhance protection of some 15 endangered species in Thailand.

Prayong quoted participants at the seminar as saying that trafficking in wildlife was almost as lucrative as drug trafficking.

Trade in bear parts was highlighted after the arrest three weeks ago of five South Korean tourists found with six bear carcasses in their vehicle in Ayudhya, north of Bangkok.

They face up to four years in jail and fines of 40,000 baht ($1,600) A live bear can be bought for about 10,000 baht in Thailand, but bear parts can fetch up to 200,000 baht in Korea, Prayong said.

South Koreans reportedly believe that consuming bear parts and bile can increase sexual potency.

A recent study by Mahidol University indicated there were 6,600 bears in the wild in Thailand, mostly in the area along the borders with Burma and Laos. It gave no comparative figures.

Prayong said the microchip tags would help by enabling wildlife officials to identify bears being cared for by individuals, which is legal in Thailand.

At the moment, he indicated, there was nothing to prevent an individual who had registered a bear from selling it off to traffickers and replacing it with a second animal.

Exports of bear products escaped detection because they were ground up or otherwise processed into unrecognizable forms, Prayong said.

Despite occasional arrests, the wildlife trade continued undiminished because of involvement by politicians and police officials Prayong said. (AFP)



Movies on screen

cinema: Tel:	Movie
Africa: 897171	Aakharin Marhale' (The Final Stage)
Asrejadid 1: 632550	Bouda-ye Kouchak (The Little Budha)
Asrejadid 2: 632550	Leyli ba Man Ast (Leyli Is With Me)
Asrejadid 3: 632550	Ziafat (The Feast)
Azadi: 627628	Baaz Maandeh (The Survivor)
Farhang: 261205	Taale'a-e Sa'ad (Good Fortune)
Golriz: 628713	Ziafat (The Feast)
Esteqlal: 893942	Daayere'-ye Sorkh (The Red Circle)
Kanoon: 836065	Taale'a-e Sa'ad (Good Fortune)
Felestin: 6498126	Borj-e Minou (The Bridge to Heaven)
Qods: 894595	Baaz Maandeh (The Survivor)
Sahra: 7507777	Leyli ba Man Ast (Leyli Is With Me).
Shahreqesseh: 627290	Leyli ba Man Ast (Leyli Is With Me)
Soroosh: 7502929	Borj-e Minou (The Bridge to Heaven)

Dream Parks to Invest $500m in China

Shanghai— American Dream Parks, a U.S. recreational group, is to spend $600 million establishing theme parks in five Chinese cities, Xinhua said Friday.

The report quoted Stephen Hung, a company executive, as saying that the parks would be located in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Beijing, Wuhan and Chengdu cities.

The park in Shanghai will be opened in late August while the Guangzhou park will be completed in October and the other three between late 1997 and early 1998.

American Dream Parks, which has more than 40 years of design and construction history, has established over 200 recreational projects worldwide.

Recently, the company began to shift its investment focus to China, Hung said, adding that the constant improvement of Chinese living standards had laid a solid foundation for his Group to expand its recreational market. AFP

Shanghai Opens First Int'l Class, Motorists Motel

SHANGHAI— Shanghai has opened its first motel expecting a growing army of private motorists to take to the roads, a reality that is unlikely to materialise any time in the nearfuture.

The 4.5 million yuan ($542,169) motel, located on a key state highway, offered car wash and repair services, a gasoline station, food and accomodation and even a karaoke lounge, Xinhua reported Wednesday.

Since trial operations started in January, business at the international class motel had been booming, the report said.

Experts said other motels were likely to open in Shanghai and throughout the country as private motorists took to the roads.

Figures, however, show that only one in 500 Chinese owns a car compared to 75 cars for every 100 Americans and one for every 10 Malaysians.

China has a family-car plan and has forecast that every family could afford a car costing $10,000 by 2010.

That reality seems a long way off with the average Chinese earning about $600 a year and the best selling and locally produced Santana sedan costing $18,000. (AFP)

Sampras Disposes of Hlasek

MASON, Ohio — Top seed Pete Sampras disposed of Swiss veteran Jakob Hlasek here on Tuesday in the second round of the ATP Championship 6-3, 6-4 — his first match since Richard Krajicek ended his three year reign at Wimbledon.

Sampras, the world number one, showed that the achilles heel injury which kept him out of the Olympics had fully recovered.

The 24-year-old American, beaten by Krajicek in the Wimbledon quarter-finals, played some superb tennis as he outclassed Hlasek, ranked 54th in the world.

Sampras is determined to correct the impression that his form has been adversely affected by his former coach Tim Gullikson's death from a brain tumour earlier this year — Sampras is without a grand slam title this year.

"I feel I'm healthy and with the U.S. Open coming up it's my last chance to win a major this year. I'll do whatever I can," Sampras said.

Sampras, who plays either Petr Korda of the Czech Republic or Australian Mark Woodforde on Thursday, said 1996 had been "pretty good but not great."

"It hasn't been as good as last year but there is one more major left in flushing meadow — that's where I'm hoping to win."

Sampras' compatriot Jim Courier, a former world number one, put in a good performance as he dispatched Briton Greg Rusedski 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 6-4 in 132 minutes.

"I showed fight and I stayed with it, that's what pleased me most about this win," the 25-year-old Courier said.

"I'm not training as hard I as did before, at this stage in my career it's not necessary that I beat myself up so much," Courier, a man whose practice regimes have always been notable for their intensity, said. *(AFP)*

Scotland Win Rugby League

EDINBURGH — Scotland won their first ever home Rugby League International 26-6 against Ireland in front of a crowd of barely more than 1,000 at Partick Thistle's Firhill Stadium.

Former Union World Cup star Alan Tait put his side on course in the fifth minute when he raced round close to the posts for the game's opening try after good work wide on the right by Darrall Shelford, cousin of former All Black captain Wayne.

Matt Crowther converted and Scotland's down under brigade saw to the rest of the first half scoring.

Midway through the half Aussie-born hooker Danny Russell darted over for a try after spotting a huge gap in the Irish defence close to the line.

And after a superb cover tackle by full-back Tait denied visiting winger Lee Child, Scotland surged upfield for Russell to release fellow Aussie Darren Shaw on the right.

That put Scotland 14-0 clear after at the break, but the Irish started the second period in determined fashion.

Their lively scrum-half and skipper Martin Crompton was held up just over the line in 51 minutes but the score was delayed only briefly as Ireland working the ball wide left from the five metre scrummage, led to a Lee Hanlan try and Phelim Comerford converted.

Much of Ireland's fire was removed minutes later when Bradford Bulls forward James Lowes was sin-binned for dissent. *(AFP)*

Fans Welcome Home S. Africa's Olympic Team

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's historic Olympic team was treated to a rousing welcome home Tuesday from a crowd of 2,000 singing, chanting people at Johannesburg's International Airport.

The team, which won three golds, and was the first from South Africa to have black medallists among its ranks, was given loud cheers from an ecstatic multi-racial throng here.

The biggest cheers were reserved for swimmer Penny Heyns, who won double gold in the 100 and 200 metre breaststroke, and marathon winner Josiah Thugwane, who on Sunday became the country's first-ever black gold medallist, several days after fellow runner Hezekiel Sepeng's silver medal showing in the 800 metres.

In a press conference soon after their arrival, South African Olympic Committee chief Sam Ramsamy predicted the country would at least double its five Atlanta medals at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

Ramsamy gave credit to president Nelson Mandela for motivating the team to achieve great heights.

Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlana, said the 78-year old president had hoped to personally welcome the team tuesday, but was prevented from doing so by pressure of work.

On Wednesday, the team is expected to hold a victory parade through central Johannesburg, which will be followed by a banquet in their honour. *(AFP)*

Conran Up Against Tough Field in Singapore

SINGAPORE — Australian Steve Conran will face stiff opposition in defending his title at the 500,000-US-dollar Canon Singapore Open Golf Championship starting Thursday.

Conran will be up against a high-calibre field led by compatriots Peter Fowler, Michael Clayton and Mike Harwood, American Peter Teravainen, Englishman Ed Fryatt, Thais Boonchu Ruangkit and Prayad Markasaeng and Taiwan's Lin Kong-Chi.

At stake for 144 professionals in the field is a winner's purse of 80,750 dollars.

The open, the eighth leg on this year's Omega Tour of the Asian Professional Golfers Association, will be played on the masters course at the Laguna National Golf and Country Club here from Thursday to Sunday.

The Omega Tour resumes after a break following the 400,000-dollar Volvo China Open in Beijing — won by Thailand's Markasaeng at the start of June. *(AFP)*

Wilson Shows All-Round Promise

CHELMSFORD, England — Danny Wilson, the 19-year-old Essex all-rounder, enjoyed a successful debut against South Africa a here on Tuesday with an unbeaten 52 and two wickets although the tourists finished with an 11-run victory.

Wilson, son of pop group Hot Chocolate lead singer Errol Brown, was unable to overhaul South Africa a's 287 for six with Essex finishing on 276 for six in the 50 overs match.

Wilson helped himself to one six and three fours in his entertaining innings and most of his runs arrived during an unbeaten stand of 80 in ten overs with Mark Ilott, who finished 42 not out from 27 deliveries.

South Africa, who remain unbeaten on this tour, owed a great deal of debt to captain Gerry Liebenberg. *(AFP)*



No Breaks in Olympic Bomb Probe

ATLANTA — The investigation into the bomb attack that killed two at the Olympics continued to focus on a security guard, but authorities said Tuesday they had no new breaks in the case.

"No charges have been filed so far," Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokesman Jay Spadafore told AFP.

Attention focussed anew on Richard Jewel the security guard hailed as a hero for first reporting the suspicious backpack containing the bomb, when it was learned that a bomb fragment had been found in his apartment.

But Jewel's lawyer, Watson Bryant, said that the fragment from the explosive that killed two people at Centennial Olympic Park last month was given to Jewel as a souvenir by other law enforcement authorities.

A total of 112 people were injured.

The FBI had taken hair samples and fingerprints from Jewel and searched his apartment over the weekend once again, but Jewel refused to provide another voice recording, on the advise of his lawyer. *(AFP)*



TEHRAN (August 6): Rasol Khadem, a member of Iran's National Free Style Wrestling Team at 96 Atlanta Olympic Games, who begged a gold medal for Iran arrives here.

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

by: Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir







Part One

What is Kung Fu?

Translated literally and word for word from Chinese, Kung Fu does not, unexpectedly enough, mean self-defense. What has been presented to the Western world throughout many years about Kung Fu has been little more than some unconventional technical terminology of Chinese origin such as *Vao-shao* which is the most widely used of all and it means: technique or art of battle (martial art).

A few years after the formation of People Republic of China in 1912, this name was officially changed to Kao-Shao meaning national art. Some other Chinese expressions to be pointed out are: Chung-Koa, Shuan and Shuai-Chiao which means Chinese boxing and wrestling. (Kung Fu is derived from the Chinese word: Chuan Fa which literally means boxing principles.)

When translating these terms and expressions, one should be very cautious, basically, in any language of this sort and family (Chinese), there are some grammatical and phonetic flaw and shortcomings such as is the case with Chinese, in which one expression could have many meanings.

Although that is basically and structurally simple, but it is probably one of the most difficult languages to translate. Studying some choice expression of Chinese martial arts certify to this fact.

Kung Fu in Chinese has a broad range of literal meanings as compared to martial arts or national arts. It could mean discipline and skill which are prerequisite to attaining higher levels and becoming a master. Another meaning of it is success and achievement in any field as well as performance of a duty and putting into practice the potential ability to carry out what must be done.

Any high-achiever and consummate person in any field can be described as a grandmaster of Kung Fu. It is interesting to know that the name:

Confucius, the great Chinese scholar and philosopher, is the Western equivalent of the Chinese: Kung Futzu of Kung Futse. It is not clear why in the West Kung Fu is used exclusively to denote the material art in question. One reason could be that length of time required to attain masterdom is in mind and focus rather than the person achieving that level.

Most students and trainees agree that this term, originating in southern China, is indeed appropriate when referring to material arts. Chinese film-maker and particularly film-makers of Hong Kong have done a great deal to establish the real sense of this term among martial arts enthusiast.

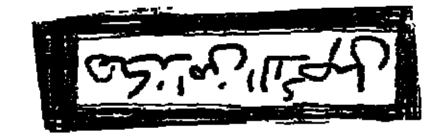
Therefore, for the sake of simplicity and brevity we have used the word Kung Fu instead of its more difficult, though more accurate, equivalents throughout this article.

Kung Fu has had a greater and more significant influence upon Chinese culture, politics and psychology in China's history than any comparable factor in the West. In actual fact, there seemed to be no major obstacle in the way of coming to a full understanding with clarity of the true meaning and definition of this philosophy; it seemed only natural.

Such an overwhelming philosophy and way of life encompassed every conceivable aspect of worldly living; which, in turn, this phenomenon turned out to be a perfect example every one to follow. Kung Fu masters of ancient China were expected to be truly versatile; that is, they were expected to have mastery of variety of skills: marksmanship, alchemy, medicine, strategy, calligraphy, music, poetry and infallible human being. To achieve that end was needed a veritable superhuman who had surpassed every boundary of his ego and transcended man's material and carnal nature (common with animals). He had conquered his ego and his transitory whom to reach the Kingdom of God.

Years of self-denial was absolutely mandatory to attain true mastery of Kung Fu. Passage was an outright ordeal. By the time a person went through all these stage, he was considered a national hero worthy of every kind of respect and admiration. He was also a saint; the guardian angel of the poor, the oppressed and the suppressed. He was responsible: he cared; he loved.

We hope to elaborate on self-defense further as this series of articles continues.





MOSTAR, Bosnia-Herzegovina (August 6): Mostar's Croatian negotiators Srecko Vucina (L) and Croat mayor of Mostar Mijo Brajkovic (R) forbid the media take pictures as they did not want to give any comment before the start of the negotiations in Mostar. Bosnian Croats and Muslims signed an agreement August 6 ending a bitter row over the local government that flared when Croats refused to join a joint city council, elected on June 30.

(AFP PHOTO)

U.S. Interests in Kuwait Threatened

KUWAIT CITY — The U.S. Embassy said here Wednesday that it has received a threat of a bomb attack against an American government installation in Kuwait.

"It was a threat against an American government installation. We are taking further precautions," said a U.S. Embassy spokesman who asked not to be named.

The threat was relayed to the U.S. Embassy by an Arabic language newspaper, which the spokesman did not identify.

As-Siyassa newspaper published an article on Wednesday that said a "local newspaper" had received a warning of a bomb attack against a U.S. government installation.

The embassy was informed of the threat on Tuesday, and the spokesman declined to comment on whether the embassy may have received more threats on Wednesday.

The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait is building a new perimeter fence of concrete blocks outside the main wall, while the U.S. military has extended the perimeter fence at Camp Doha north of Kuwait City where several hundred U.S. military personnel are stationed.

The U.S. Embassy has advised American citizens in Kuwait to "be vigilant of their personal security and surroundings" since the Khobar bombing.

Several senior U.S. officials, including U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, have visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the last few weeks to review security measures for U.S. forces in the region following the Khobar attack.

After his July visit, Perry said U.S. forces are now on the "the highest possible threat level" and said commanders had been instructed to prepare for an "imminent" attack. (AFP)

U.S.: No Imminent Resumption of Peace Talks

WASHINGTON — Israel and Syria are still far from an agreement on resuming peace talks that broke down six months ago, the State Department said Tuesday.

"This is a considerable challenge," spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "This is going to take a lot of work to put together if it can be put together."

"I wouldn't lead you to believe that this is imminent," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday offered to hold peace talks with Syria on "all outstanding matters" including the Golan Heights, which Syria lost to Israel in the 1967 war.

Netanyahu said he had made a new proposal to Syria through Washington.

Burns said there is "interest from both governments" on resuming the peace talks but that no agreement to move forward had been reached.

(AFP)



(Contd from Pg. 1)

CROATIA...

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and his Serbian counterpart Slobodan Milosevic were holding a lunch following the end of the formal part of their closed-door summit, Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis said.

The special one-day summit — the first official bilateral meeting between the two men since mid-1991 — was called to normalize relations between the two Balkan neighbors.

Belgrade and Zagreb have still not formally recognized each other following the breakup of the old six-republic Yugoslav Federation in 1991.

Simitis's press spokesman Georges Patagias told reporters that Milosevic and Tudjman still had to "discuss certain details of the statement" during the lunch.

The statement would be published afterward, he said.

A member of the Croat delegation, speaking to Simitis, said the "meeting has been a success." (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

U.S. FACING...

fected," and that it was not anticipated that any Pakistani firms would be affected by the sanctions.

Several religious and political parties in Pakistan have also condemned the U.S. move, urging Muslim states to oppose the U.S. "pressures" against the Islamic world.

The United States, facing condemnation from Europe over its toughened sanctions on Iran and Libya, vowed Tuesday to stand firm against regimes it basically accuses of spearheading international terror.

"The United States is going to go forward. We're going to implement this bill," spokesman Nicholas Burns said as protest notes from European governments continued to pour into the State Department.

Burns said Washington is prepared to defend the legislation before the World Trade Organization if the European governments decide to challenge its legitimacy.

"Nothing at this point can dissuade us from implementing American law," Burns said. "But we'd like to cooperate with the Europeans." (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRANIAN...

Islamic values under the hardest circumstances. He added that enduring hardships and self-sacrifice for the cause of truth will definitely result in the Almighty God's grace and help and further success.

"Thus, the Iranian representatives abroad, who are incessantly facing unfounded allegations and threats launched by the agents of the global arrogance and Zionism, should endure the bitterness of their mission as a blessing in disguise," the Leader stressed.

Referring to the adverse propaganda campaign initiated by the arrogant powers against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Leader reiterated that such propaganda and hostile measures will achieve nothing in reality except poisoning the public opinion of some nations. "The growing struggle of the arrogant powers, headed by the U.S., against the Islamic Republic of Iran is in fact aimed at checking the increasing power of Islam in the world, and it is evident that the global arrogance regards the Islamic Iran as a rival of which it is scared," he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out the successful measures taken by Iran in the area of international politics. He stressed that ever since the Foreign Ministry forged its policies based on the Islamic thought, Iran's international diplomacy has been clearly improving. Such progress has been mainly due to the independence-seeking character of the Iranian people and their devotion to their religion and their Islamic government, the Leader noted.

The revered ayatollah concluded by underlining that withstanding the covetous attitudes of the global powers on the scene of foreign policy is vital to the Islamic dignity of the Iranian nation.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

U.S. FROWNS...

meet with Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and discuss an agreement for Iranian natural gas supplies for Turkey.

But Ankara may face sanctions over the deal under provisions of the new Iran-Libya sanctions act that President Bill Clinton signed Monday to punish foreign firms that invest in the oil and gas industries of the two countries.

"We will watch the development of this relationship very carefully," Burns said. "We are skeptical that anything good can come out of this relationship with Iran." (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

SEPARATISTS...

A Chechen commander, Khizir Khachukayev, told AFP that his men were in control of all buildings surrounding the headquarters of the pro-Russian government.

"We control the situation in the center of the city," he said.

But Konstantin Pulikovski, deputy commander of Russian troops in Chechnya, said not one single strategic position had been claimed by the Chechens, who on Tuesday launched their biggest offensive in five months on the capital.

A spokesman for the Russian troops said Moscow was preparing a counter-offensive but that the operation was delayed to minimize loss of life among the soldiers and civilians.

Chechen spokesman Movladi Udugov said for his part that the separatists were preparing for the "second phase" of their offensive on Grozny but he did not elaborate.

Khachukayev said the Chechens "had taken up all the necessary positions. "We are now waiting for orders," he said.

An official with the pro-Russian Interior Ministry admitted that Russian troops had taken a pounding by the Chechens, who could be seen moving freely around the capital on Wednesday.

Yuri Plugin told the Interfax news agency that the situation was "extremely complicated" and that the Chechens had regrouped Wednesday and attacked neighborhoods in central Grozny and in the administrative area.

Earlier, a Russian Interior Ministry spokesman cited by the ITAR-TASS news agency said Moscow was using helicopters to pound Chechen positions and try to flush out the separatists.

Doctors at a local hospital said the fighting had left 10 civilians dead and about 50 wounded. The Chechens said five of their soldiers had been killed and eight injured while a senior Russian internal affairs official said that 29 Russian soldiers had been killed and 100 wounded since the fighting flared up Tuesday.

The Chechens' offensive was in retaliation for a month of Russian bombardments of Chechen villages and strongholds in the southern mountainous regions, despite a truce called by Moscow in May during President Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign.

Fierce fighting Wednesday was also reported in the nearby town of Argun where Russian troops, who only control the military headquarters, were pounding Chechen positions in an attempt to wrest control of the city.

One source close to Chechen leaders told the ITAR-TASS news agency that the separatist offensive in that city 15 kilometers (10 miles) east of Grozny was led by Salman Raduyev, who recently turned up alive after being thought dead for months.

The source said some 600 Chechens took part in the offensive to control administrative buildings in Argun and managed to shoot down two Russian helicopters.

Movladi Udugov said in an interview with Russian television that the separatist offensive was in reprisal for the recent Russian bombing campaign and that the Chechens still wanted to return to peace talks and end the vicious 20-month-old war. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ASSAD...

we are hearing today," he added, in a clear reference to Netanyahu.

Mubarak, the first Arab leader to meet with Netanyahu last month, said he agreed with Assad that the Lebanese and Syrian tracks of the peace process should not be divided.

"As far as the Syrian-Lebanese tracks are concerned, we still need some time before a resumption of negotiations," the Egyptian president said.

Asked whether peace was possible with Netanyahu in charge in Israel, Mubarak said Arab leaders should "give this man some time."

In Damascus, official Syrian radio said the Alexandria summit aimed to bolster the Arab position in the "face of Israel's expansion plans."

"Syria is continuing its efforts toward a unified Arab position to challenge the Zionist plans for expansion and hegemony at the expense of Arab land and interests," Damascus radio said.

The government newspaper *Tishrin* said Wednesday that the aim of the Lebanon-first option was "to draw Lebanon away from Syria and the Arab world." (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

RUMORS...

Levy also planned to boycott a meeting later the same day of the parliamentary foreign affairs and defense committee, Israel public radio reported.

His absences followed statements by Netanyahu late Tuesday on Israeli television in which he made clear that he had no intention of handing over responsibility for directing Israel's peace efforts to the foreign minister.

"Levy is upset, angry and hurt and he will not allow Netanyahu to take him for a ride," a close associate of the foreign minister told the newspaper *Haaretz*.

The aide said Levy was "bound to resign," possibly as early as Friday's weekly Cabinet meeting, if the dispute is not resolved.

Since coming to office in June, Netanyahu has relied on his own staff, notably foreign policy advisor Dore Gold, to run contacts with the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Arab governments involved in the peace process.

The issue came to a head over the weekend when it became known that no Foreign Ministry official would accompany Netanyahu on his first official visit to Jordan, which took place on Monday.

Officials said Levy was also furious that Netanyahu has refused to put him in charge of a steering committee due to oversee the resumption of negotiations with Yasser Arafat and the PA.

"This matter, which is at the center of the peace process, should be in the hands of the prime minister," Netanyahu said in Tuesday's television interview. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 10)

SIMPLE ....

"I'm not talking about ammonites or corals or anything like that but something incredibly primitive such as micro-fossils from highly primitive organisms. It's absolutely fascinating to find these," she added.

NASA is planning to launch two unmanned space probes to Mars later this year. It plans to send the Mars Global Survey and the Mars Pathfinder in November and December, respectively.

The decade-long missions are designed to answer questions about the role of water in Mars' early evolution and whether the planet could have supported life at the beginning of its existence.

In the summer of 1976, two U.S. Viking probes landed on Mars, and the scientific community held its breath in hopes of discovering evidence of life on the planet, but were disappointed.

Although no evidence of organic life was found on the red planet, analysis of Mars' atmosphere and soil uncovered carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen and phosphorus — essential elements for organic life on earth.

(AFP)

President Recieves ECO Chief

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received the outgoing Secretary General of ECO Shemshad Ahmad on Wednesday.

Ambassador Shemshad Ahmad, a senior Pakistani diplomat who is leaving Tehran next week on completion of his assignment paid a farewell call on President Rafsanjani.

The ambassador noted that Mashhad-Sarakhs railway is considered by the world as the most important project linking Central Asia with other countries.

Referring to Iran's historical role in the evolution of the regional and global developments, Shemshad Ahmad said that regional countries and the ECO members appreciated Iran for its contribution to the speedy realization of such a giant project.

He touched on the emphasis laid by the ECO heads of state on full implementation of projects in the field of aviation, shipping, insurance and banking. The ECO chief also termed as "effective" the removal of tariffs and introduction of preferrential tariffs aimed at increasing the economic and commercial transactions.

Ahmad said the role that ECO's development played in the region was indicative of supports of the member countries including the Islamic Republic of Iran for the body and their adherences to thier obligations.

Meanwhile, President Rafsanjani underlined the need for strengthening of foundations established within the ECO, considering it as a factor effective in making the organization futher active to expand regional cooperation.

President also said the Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously seeking expansion of regional cooperation with the ECO member states.

President Rafsanjani underlined the need for the ECO members' abiding by the decisions made at the orgnaization.

FM, Top Iranian Diplomats Call On Yazdi



Photo: Mojtaba Taklu

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- The gathering of the Iranian diplomatic representatives abroad opened here Wednesday with a speech delivered by the Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi.

Elaborating on the Islamic penal code, the ayatollah responded to some critical remarks by Western circles against the Islamic laws.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, another speaker at the gathering, underlined the significant part played by foreign policy in today's world, adding that the grand Leader of the Islamic Revolution deems Iran's foreign relations extremely crucial.

He added that the Foreign Ministry's officials are tasked with coordinating the country's foreign relations. "Those countries are successful in their foreign relations whose diplomats hold a broad view over the world's developments," the minister stressed.

Underlining the important role of the mass media in achieving success for the diplomacy of every country, Velayati said that, in modern age, the media are the strong arm of overt diplomacy. During the recent days, he added, the Iranian media played a significant role in countering the evil propaganda campaign launched by the U.S. against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

North Sea Oil Investment Expected to Decline

LONDON — Capital spending on new North Sea oil and gas projects is expected to fall sharply in the next five years because of the remaining limited opportunities in the UK's Continental Shelf.

Wood Mackenzie consultants forecast that investment could decline to below $1.5 billion in real terms in the early years of the next decade in line with a fall in the number of probable projects and a decline in the size of those that do emerge.

Total Offshore capital spending last year reached more than $7.5bn and is expected to stay above $3.5bn over the next few years as a large number of fields move to production.

Heavy Offshore investment in the early 1990s suggests UK oil production could rise to around a record 3 million barrels per day in 1998 and 1999 compared to 2.7m bpd reached last October.

But forecasts of continued increases this year have not been borne out with output gradually dropping to 2.43m bpd in June despite attempts to maximize production.

In its annual analysis of UK Offshore trends, the Edinburgh-based energy consultants warned that the North Sea was now a mature area with "limited opportunities" for companies to expand significantly upon current re-investment levels or even continue at current levels.

Compared to costs of $16bn estimated to be spent in the short and medium term on the development of 67 probable new fields identified last year, it suggested that a third less would be spent on 50 fields receiving government approval.

The size of probable development was also said to be falling with nine new fields added to the list this year containing an average of only 45m barrels of oil equivalent compared with an average of 80m barrels for 19 fields approved last year. (IRNA)

U.S. to Issue Transit Visa to Taiwanese Vice President

WASHINGTON — The U.S. State Department has decided to issue a transit visa to the Taiwanese vice president for a stopover next week, despite objections of the Chinese government, the *Washington Post* reported Wednesday.

Citing diplomatic sources on the as-yet unannounced decision, the *Post* said the visa will allow Lien Chan to stay in the United States "a day or two" next week on his way to a presidential inauguration ceremony in the Dominican Republic.

The Caribbean country is one of several dozen Latin American and African nations that have full diplomatic relations with Taiwan, which China regards as a renegade province.

U.S. officials insist the decision to grant a visa to Lien is within the Clinton administration's one-China policy of recognizing Beijing as the sole legal government of China, while maintaining "informal" relations with Taipei, the daily said.

Lien will not be allowed to make any public appearances in the United States, but he might meet privately with members of the Taiwanese community, the officials told the *Post*.

Chinese officials in Washington have reacted "cautiously" to reports that the visa was under consideration for Lien. One Chinese diplomat was quoted as saying that Beijing would wait to see what "he will be allowed to do" in the United States.

Taiwanese authorities had argued the U.S. transit visa was necessary because it would be impossible for him to travel to the Dominican Republic for the swearing-in of president-elect Leonel Fernandez.

Lien is likely to fly to Los Angeles late Wednesday and stay there a day before proceeding to the Dominican Republic, the daily said. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg.2)

RUHANI....

dignity of the Islamic government in Iran, as well as the country's remarkable economic development in recent years, indicates that such sanctions not only have had no harmful impacts on Iran, but they have also led to significant achievements in the economic fields.

He went on by saying that people's massive turnout in recent parliamentary elections, the rallies marking the International Qods' Day, the ceremonies on the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution and similar occasions convey the message to the world that people fully support the Islamic System.

Ruhani further assured that the brave Iranian people are determined to foil the hostile plots hatched by the enemies of Islam.

He concluded by saying that the implementation of major development projects in the country indicates that the government has spared no effort at the full-scale development of the country.

Arafat Meets King Hussein Amid Fear for Peace Process

AQABA, Jordan — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat held talks here Wednesday with King Hussein on ways to break the paralysis which has gripped the Palestinian peace process since the right wing came to power in Israel.

Arafat went straight into a meeting with the Jordanian monarch after arriving in the Red Sea resort of Aqaba from the autonomous Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian president said ahead of the talks that he would raise "many issues, including the continuity of the peace process and how to face together the obstacles" confronting Arab leaders since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's election victory in May.

Nabil abu Rudeina, a close Arafat aide, said the two leaders would discuss "how to get the peace process moving," as well as King Hussein's meeting with Netanyahu in Amman on Monday.

Netanyahu's decision to ease restrictions imposed by the former Labor government on expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied land would figure high in the talks, a Jordanian official said.

Arafat on Tuesday lashed out angrily at Netanyahu over the lack of progress in the Palestinian peace process since the rightwing Israeli politician's upset election victory over Labor Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

He said the lifting of the freeze on Jewish settlements was a "flagrant violation" of past agreements that was aimed at "sabotaging the peace process."

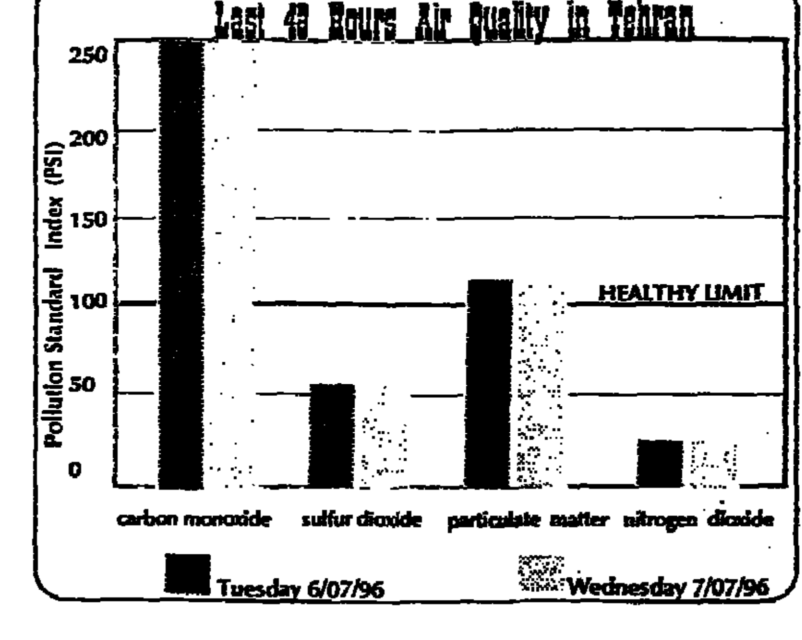
(AFP)

Mubarak, Netanyahu Discuss Peace by Phone

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke by telephone late Tuesday with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak about the Middle East peace process, officials said.

The Israeli premier briefed Muharak about his talks with King Hussein of Jordan in Amman on Monday, and the Egyptian leader pledged his commitment to pushing forward the peace process, the prime minister's office said.

Mubarak was due to hold talks with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad in the Egyptian Port of Alexandria on Wednesday. (AFP)



(Contd from Pg. 2)

U.S....

Libya.

"This would serve the U.S. a reminder that the world is changing fast and is not willing to give in to its pressures. Well, the U.S. can go alone but it would do so at the expense of being left alone on this particular issue," said Surjeet.

Pakistan's daily *The Nation* wrote in its editorial Wednesday that the U.S. move to impose sanctions against Iran and Libya is so arbitrary and dictatorial that even its closest allies in Europe have denounced it as illegal and the interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Commenting on the latest U.S. sanctions against Iran and Libya, the daily said both countries have been on the U.S. 'hit list' for a very long time.

"President Clinton's calling Iran and Libya 'two of the most dangerous supporters of terrorism in the world', however, has been rejected by his own camp-followers, isolating Americans in their bid to dictate terms," the editorial said.

It added, "Perhaps, the time has come for the small nations to challenge the legitimacy of the so-called New World Order, and act in unison to resist high-handed and arbitrary dictates of the overlord design to hold them to ransom."

And Pakistan being one of the victims of the sanctions, has all the reason to denounce the American move against Iran and Libya, the editorial concluded.

(Contd from Pg. 6)

SHANGHAI .....

which had yet to be calculated.

There was also one case of embezzlement.

Sources said that the corruption cases involved land-lease approvals for the numerous massive property development projects in Xujiahui, located in the southwest of the city.

The scandal would be a major embarrassment for the senior leadership now headed by party secretary Huang Ju and Mayor Xu Kuangdi who were tipped for promotion next year, the report said.

Shanghai, China's largest city and its economic powerhouse, has experienced fewer of the corruption scandals, especially those of large scale and involving high officials, uncovered in other cities.

Funds worth more than $2 billion disappeared from Beijing's coffers in a corruption scandal involving Vice Mayor Wang Baosen, who committed suicide while under investigation, and former mayor and party secretary Chen Xitong.

In Shanghai, one of the more serious recent cases involved former trade union chief Shi Shenju who was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for accepting bribes totalling 73,000 yuan.

"There is some corruption but in Shanghai there is strict control and more procedures to follow which makes it more difficult to be corrupt," a local reporter with a leading newspaper said.

Shanghai's Discipline Inspection Commission set up 17 teams last month to track down corrupt cadres. (AFP)



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Human Head Found in Safe

HAMBURG, Germany – Detectives in Hamburg are puzzling over the origin of a severed human head found inside a rusted safe.

The safe was found by walkers near the Elbe River in the Kirchwerder district last week, but could only be opened by a specialized firm Monday. The severely decomposed head was in a plastic bag amid wet items of clothing.

Police were awaiting the results of a pathologist's report Wednesday for indications of age, sex and cause of death.

(AFP)

Teacher Forced Pupils to Drink Urine

BEIJING – A schoolteacher in Guiyang, in the southern Chinese province of Guangxi, has been fired for forcing unruly pupils to drink urine, the Guangming daily reported Wednesday.

Thirteen children aged about 12, were forced to drink "between one and three capsuls of urine, mixed with water, between May 13 and 24".

After the punishment, "some of the children were taken ill with vomiting and others rushed to a nearby pond to rinse out their mouths," the paper said.

(AFP)

China Accepts Draft Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

GENEVA – China has accepted the draft nuclear test ban treaty at negotiations in Geneva after reaching an agreement with the United States over Beijing's final objections, sources close to the negotiations said Wednesday.

The agreement was reached Tuesday between Chinese Envoy Sha Zukang and his U.S. counterpart Stephen Ledogard at the UN Conference on Disarmament.

The deal has been submitted for approval by the two governments and was to be made public probably on Friday in Geneva, the sources said.

China, with objections over on-site inspections, had been the last of the five declared nuclear powers not to have accepted the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in its latest draft.

The other powers – the United States, Russia, France and Britain – had already indicated their acceptance of the draft, and their hope that the treaty can be signed next month when the UN General Assembly convenes in New York.

Chinese and U.S. negotiators had reported progress Tuesday after several days of intensive consultations concerning China's hesitation over the text's present proposal for on-site inspections to check against possible illegal nuclear tests.

(AFP)

Coup Leader Seeks UNHCR Protection in Bangkok

DHAKA – Retired Army Major Bazlul Huda, a leader of the 1975 military coup that toppled Bangladesh's post-independence Awami League government, is being held in a Bangkok jail, a report said Wednesday.

The private Probe news agency said Huda was arrested in Bangkok on July 12 on charges of shoplifting and a court ordered him to be sent back to Bangladesh, but he instead sought the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), claiming to be a "stateless person."

The report, quoting "reliable sources," said the UNHCR authorities in Bangkok sent Huda's papers to its Geneva headquarters.

The UNHCR in Geneva said Huda did not fulfill the conditions "for being a stateless person," the agency said.

Huda, along with most of the coup leaders, fled the country after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League returned to power in June.

Sheikh Hasina is the daughter of Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was killed in the coup together with most of his family.

(AFP)

More Than 2,200 Killed in Garrison Rout

COLOMBO – The Sri Lankan government Wednesday said it had lost over 700 troopers killed in a huge Tamil Tiger guerrilla attack against a military garrison where at least 1,500 rebels were also killed.

Junior Defense Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte said the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had used thousands of fighters, including suicide cadres, to overwhelm the 1,488-strong Mullaitivu garrison last month.

In the first official admission of the debacle at Mullaitivu, the minister told Parliament that "over 700" soldiers were killed. However, official sources said only about 35 soldiers in the garrison had survived.

"It is inevitable that some battles are lost. But the goal of the campaign is final victory," Ratwatte said. "The number killed and wounded in action amongst LTTE cadres according to their own transmissions runs over 1,500."

(AFP)

Rwandan President Denies Aide's Pledge of No Sanctions on Burundi

KIGALI – The Rwandan presidency Wednesday denied a statement by the vice president that this country has no plans to join other African nations in imposing sanctions on Burundi, state-run radio said.

It quoted a statement from chief of staff for President Pasteur Bizimungu as saying "terms for implementation of sanctions will be studied in the same forum with other regional heads of state."

In an interview earlier with the BBC, Rwanda's vice president and Defense Minister Paul Kagame said of Burundi's new military rulers: "We are saying we are going to work with them, to help them find a solution."

"We are saying we are going to work with them, to help them (the new government) find a solution," General Kagame told the BBC in an interview monitored here.

Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi major, ousted Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya in an army-led coup on July 25, but his government has so far received no international recognition. Ntibantunganya is still holed up at the residence of the U.S. Ambassador in Bujumbura.

Rwanda's position defies a decision taken by seven regional African countries at a summit last week, attended by Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu, to impose economic sanctions against Burundi.

So far, the embargo has been imposed only by neighbouring Tanzania and Kenya.

The other four countries represented at the summit in Arusha, Tanzania, were Zaire, Ethiopia, Uganda and Cameroon, as chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

(AFP)

Cape Town's Muslim Community Braces Itself for Revenge Attacks



CAPE TOWN, South Africa (August 6): Armed anti-drug Muslims from People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (PAGAD) march past a policeman during a show of strength through the streets of Athlone, Cape Town. Tired of the ineffectual attempts of the police to control the drug lords and gangsters, members of PAGAD have taken the law into thier own hands and declared war on the drug lords.

(AFP-PHOTO)

CAPE TOWN – This city's Muslim community braced itself Tuesday for an onslaught from gansters who have threatened to bomb mosques and shoot children following the weekend mob execution of a feared gang leader, reports said.

Schools remained closed Tuesday and large numbers of police patrolled Cape Town's mixed-race township of Salt River, where around 2,000 masked members of the activist Islamic group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (PAGAD) on Sunday executed gang leader Rashaad Staggie.

Witnesses said that Staggie, a known drug dealer and leader of the hard livings gang, arrived home to find his house surrounded. Sitting in his vehicle, he raised his hands to show he was not armed, but someone shot him in the head at point blank range and dragged him out.

As paramedics tried to attend to him, someone threw a petrol bomb which exploded and set him alight, driving the paramedics back.

He then managed to stagger to his feet and run a few paces before others in the mob pushed him over and fired more bullets into him. Some pagad members kicked his corpse as he lay in the gutter, witnesses said.

At least 18 people were injured in a subsequent shootout between other gang members and the Muslims.

The Muslim community has since received numerous threats that children would be shot and mosques blown up, Cape Town's *Argus* newspaper said Tuesday.

(AFP)

Talks Continue to Avert Violence in Protestant March

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland – Roman Catholics and Protestants were set to resume talks here Wednesday on a compromise to avert sectarian violence when a Protestant fraternal order parades through Londonderry at the weekend.

Leaders of the Protestant Apprentice Boys met with the Catholic Bishop of Derry, Seamus Hegarty, but a church source close to the talks said afterwards that "the situation at the moment, I'm afraid is pretty bleak."

They were to meet later with John Hume, leader of the moderate Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party who has been at the center of efforts to broker a deal between march organizers and nationalist protesters.

More than 10,000 Protestants from all over Northern Ireland are expected here Saturday to commemorate the stand by the 13 Apprentice Boys who locked the city's gates and thwarted the attempt by Britain's Catholic Monarch James II to conquer the city in 1689.

(AFP)

Bodies of North Korean Flood Victims Returned

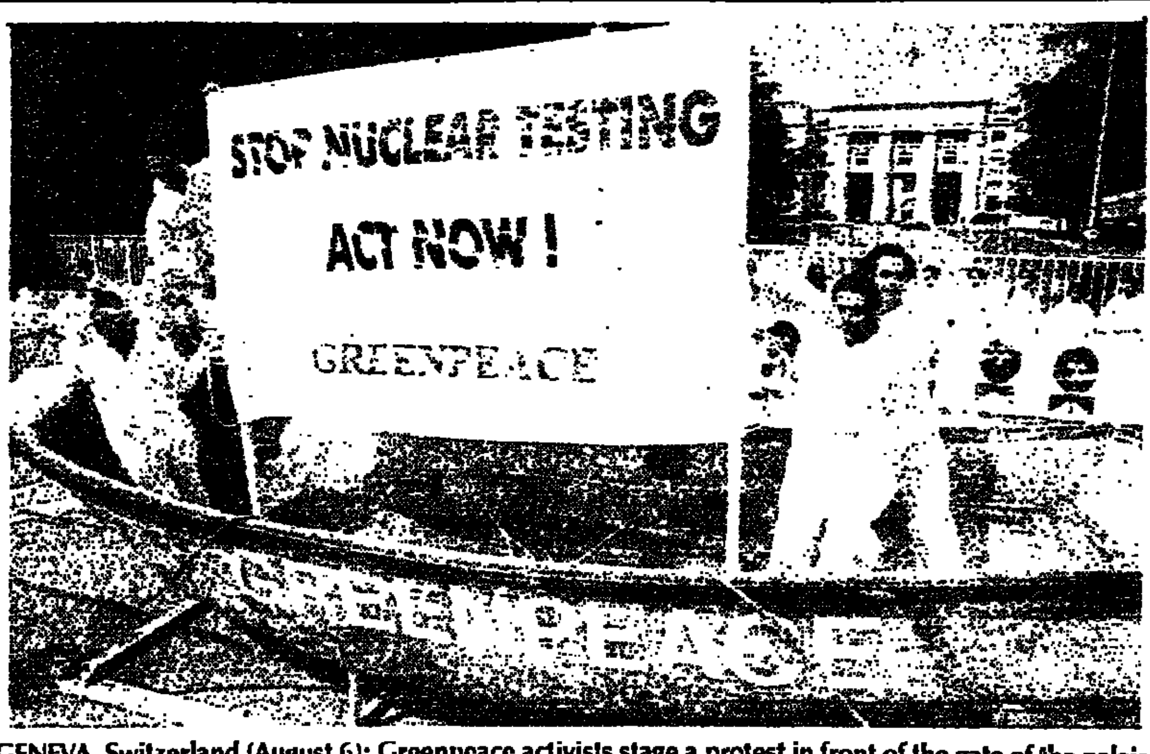
PANMUNJOM, Korea — The bodies of four North Koreans including two soldiers swept southwards by devastating floods last month were repatriated Wednesday as their government issued a desperate appeal for international aid.

The remains of the Korean people's army lieutenant and an enlisted man were handed over by an honor guard of the U.S.-led United Nations Command to a North Korean contingent in this truce village at the heart of the Demilitarized Zone.

The soldiers were washed southwards when torrential rains in late July triggered floods on both sides of the Korean divide, leaving 89 dead in South Korea and an undeclared number of casualties in its Communist neighbour.

The handover occurred as North Korea, gripped by a severe food shortage since its worst flooding in a century wiped out much of its harvest last summer, issued a new international appeal for relief aid.

(AFP)



GENEVA, Switzerland (August 6): Greenpeace activists stage a protest in front of the gate of the palais of the United Nations in Geneva, on the 51th anniversary of the drop of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb. Greenpeace protest for an immedite stop of nuclear tests.

(AFP PHOTO)

India to Hold Legislative Elections in Kashmir Next Month

NEW DELHI – India's autonomous Election Commission on Wednesday announced plans to hold legislative elections in Kashmir next month in a bid to restore normalcy to the Himalayan state.

The Election Commission said the state assembly elections in Kashmir, the first since the Muslim separatist drive began in 1989, will be staggered over four days – September 7, 16, 21 and 30.

Voting in Kashmir valley was spaced out over the four days of polling, with Srinagar, the Kashmir summer capital and the urban hub of the Muslim separatist drive, voting on September 21.

"The government is determined to restore democracy and the rule of law in Kashmir," Kashmir governor K.V. Krishna Rao said in a statement whose release coincided with the announcement here of the election dates.

Kashmir has been under the direct rule of New Delhi since 1990, when the government of Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah was dissolved, and voters in the troubled northern state will be electing an 87-member state legislature.

(AFP)

Taiwan's Trade Surplus Over Seven Months Surges 193 Percent

TAIPEI — Taiwan's trade surplus in the first seven months of the year soared 193.5 percent from a year earlier to reach U.S.$6.93 billion, the Finance Ministry said Wednesday.

Exports advanced 4.3 percent year-on-year in the January-July period to hit 66.07 billion dollars, while imports declined 3.0 percent to 59.14 billion dollars, the ministry said.

The trade gap between Taiwan and its largest trading partner, the United States, increased 29.8 percent to 3.37 billion dollars in favor of Taiwan, it said.

Taiwan's trade surplus with Hong Kong — the main transshipment port for commerce between the island and China — declined 2.5 percent from the same period last year, standing at 13.75 billion dollars in the January-July period, it added.

Taiwan's trade deficit with its leading supplier, Japan, slumped 23.8 percent to 8.1 billion dollars for the first seven months of the year, the ministry said.

It said exports in July dropped 6.8 percent year-on-year to 9.48 billion dollars due to falling overseas demand for local agricultural and processed products. Imports fell 15.5 percent to 8.13 billion dollars.

Overseas demand mainly focused on electronics, information, communications and mechanical products, the ministry said.

Industrial products accounted for 96.8 percent of Taiwan's total exports last month. Agricultural and industrial raw materials took a 70.9-percent share of overall imports. (AFP)

Los Angeles County Sues R.J. Reynolds, Philip Morris and Others

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles County filed suit against R.J. Reynolds, Philip Morris and other companies Tuesday, saying they should return money spent on tobacco-related illnesses.

County official Zev Yaroslavsky said the suit, filed in a county superior court, seeks to recover "the millions of dollars a year that we believe county taxpayers have incurred treating people ... made sick by tobacco."

Yaroslavsky added that the county doesn't "just want to recover money" but also wants "to change the nature of the insidious advertising that the tobacco companies do."

The suit claims that the six companies "controlled and manipulated the amount and ... availability of nicotine in their tobacco products for the purpose and with the intent of creating and sustaining addiction."

The plaintiff also wants "defendants to cease targeting minors in their advertising campaign.

The list of defendants also includes Brown and Williamson, Ligget and Myers and American Tobacco Company.

Officials base their claim in part on a University of California study that reports that tobacco-related illnesses cost Los Angeles County — the most populous in the United States — 1.2 billion dollars a year.

Many cities have brought similar suits, and on July 18 Connecticut became the 10th state to do so. (AFP)

GE Capital to Buy First Colony Insurance

STAMFORD, Connecticut — GE Capital, a subsidiary of the conglomerate General Electric, announced Monday that it would buy the first colony insurance companies for 1.8 billion dollars.

The purchase will add some 11 billion dollars in assets to GE Capital's insurance and financial business, GE said in a statement.

First colony, which is based in Virginia, has two principal subsidiaries: First Colony Life Insurance Company and American Mayflower Life Insurance Company of New York.

GE Capital offered 36.15 dollars per share, a premium of 20.5 percent over the closing prices on Friday.

The sale will be official late this year once it is approved by federal authorities, GE said.

GE Capital services, which has assets of over 185 billion dollars, provides a variety of services including specialty insurance and consumer services, such as car leasing, home mortgages and credit cards. (AFP)

Chrsyler's 'Car Killer' Backfires in Japan

TOKYO — Dubbed the "Japan Car Killer" at its launch, U.S. giant Chrysler Corp.'s big push into the Japanese market with Neon has backfired, failing to woo buyers away from European makes, experts said Tuesday.

Since its debut in Tokyo cities on June 15, the subcompact Neon, nicknamed "Japan Car Killer" by the Japanese media, appears to have been a flop.

consumers have become affluent enough to buy imported models, they are realizing long-cherished desires."

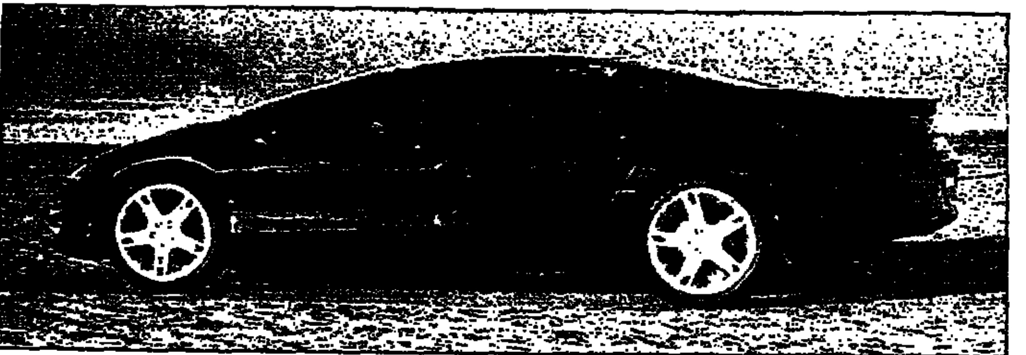
But despite Neon's poor reception, Chrysler Japan remains optimistic.

Miwako Ogata in the public relations division, said the Neon was "selling well" and would enjoy "sales growth toward the target" later in the year.

considering it is close to the Neon," Moriwaki said.

Experts said a small dealership network might also be responsible for the slack sales, noting Chrysler cars are available at only 150 showrooms in Japan.

Imported motor vehicle sales in Japan rose 17.8 percent from a year earlier to 42,116 units in July, a record high for the month and the 33rd straight month of year-on-



Chrysler Japan Sales Co. Ltd. has managed to sell only 508 of the 2,000cc right-hand-drive Neon since its launch, well short of the target of 4,000 by the end of the year and 8,000 for 1997.

That despite its modest price of 1.45 million-to-1.80 million yen ($13,000-to-17,000), the same range as Toyota's Corolla line.

The left-hand-drive Neon hit the U.S. market last year, drawing immediate popularity.

Japanese experts were clear on the reason for Neon's failure to take off.

"Why would Japanese consumers bother to buy an American car that looks hardly different from (Toyota Motor Corp.'s) Corolla?" asked Yoshiyuki Takano, analyst at Tokyo Research Institute.

"European automakers, especially German, advanced into the Japanese market much earlier, and succeeded in establishing prestigeous images," Takano said.

"Japanese imagine something luxurious when speaking of imported cars," he said. "German cars, such as BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz, look great to Japanese. They have some 'taste' that Japanese consumers admire."

Takano added: "Now that some

"Amid increasing campaigns, we think the Neon's name recognition will rise to help boost sales," she said.

In an apparent bid to erase negative impressions, Chrysler asked the Japanese media in early July to stop referring the Neon as "Japan Car Killer."

"We have never used such a phrase ourselves, and the Neon is the Japanese consumers' friend, not killer," Ogata said.

Minoru Moriwaki, an editor at the *Car and Driver* fortnightly magazine with a circulation of 300,000, said: "Cheap prices do not guarantee good sales in Japan's import car market."

"Japanese buyers of imported cars are seeking unique styling and other characters that they can boast of," Moriwaki said, adding the Neon lacked such "charms."

"The Neon was developed with strong consciousness of Japanese cars and came closer to them. But the strategy has backfired here," he said.

Another U.S. "big three" automaker, General Motors Corp., is expected to launch its 1,900-cc Saturn in Japan in early next year.

"The Saturn may have difficulty in achieving a success in Japan,

year growth, the Japan Automobile Importers Association said.

Total sales of cars made in the United States edged up 4.8 percent to 12,941 units in July, while German-made cars rose 26.0 percent to 17,179 units.

General Motors chalked up a 215.3 percent rise, largely due to sales of its Cavalier through Toyota dealerships.

Ford Motor Co. enjoyed a 38.9 percent car sales rise, followed by Chrysler with an 11.9 percent increase.

Volkwagen and Audi from Germany grew 29.4 percent, and Opel surged 43.3 percent. BMW climbed 22.4 percent, and Mercedes-Benz rose 6.6 percent.

Swedish sales increased 19.6 percent to 2,788 units. Volvo rose 21.8 percent, while Saab suffered a 16.9 percent year-on-year drop.

British cars rose 13.0 percent rise to 2,467 units, with Rover up 36.7 percent, while sales of French-made cars shot up 49.4 percent to 1,161 units, Peugeot rising 38.3 percent, Citroen 23.4 percent, and Renault 157.5 percent.

Italian cars rose 25.6 percent to 593 units, boosted by Fiat, which increased 26.8 percent. (AFP)

Tokyo Leaves Economic Assessment Unchanged

TOKYO — Japan's Economic Planning Agency (EPA) on Wednesday left its economic assessment of gradual recovery unchanged, due to continued lack of acceleration in consumer spending and production.

The government agency said it maintained the monthly assessment, which is regarded as the government's official verdict on the economy, unchanged for the sixth straight month since a mild recovery was first heralded February.

"The economy is continuing its recovery moves, although at a modest pace," the EPA said in its latest report, put forward to a cabinet meeting Wednesday.

The EPA made subtle upgrades in its assessments of private-sector capital spending and the labor market.

Private-sector capital spending "is in a recovery trend," the EPA said, a step up from the assessment in its July report of "in a gradual recovery trend."

It attributed the progress to results of its latest quarterly survey on the corporate climate, which includes fixed-asset investment plans.

Its quarterly survey found that large-sized companies planned to raise 1996 capital outlays by 20.0 percent after cutting them by 2.9 percent in 1995.

"It is clear that the recovery speed of private-sector capital spending is accelerating, but the strength of the (recovery) force should be assessed carefully in the bank of Japan's next short-term outlook report and other (private sector) bank surveys," an EPA official said.

He said private-sector capital spending "still contains risks" for a renewed downturn, in view also of a possible downgrade of investment plans by semiconductor chipmakers.

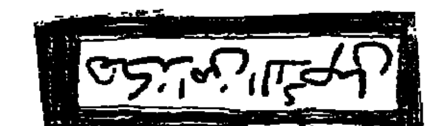
Turning to the labor market, the EPA said it was showing "moves of an improvement in limited areas, while severe conditions remain."

The July report said the labor market is showing "indications of an improvement in limited areas, while severe conditions remain."

The EPA official said: "A rise in the unemployment rate is often observed in the early phase of a recovery," as unemployed workers come to the market in search for new jobs.

On consumer spending, the EPA said it left its assessment unchanged because of persistent downward pressure on wages.

"Some indicators, including retail and supermarket sales, showed a strong (year-on-year) rise in June, but they were largely due to increases in working days, while the wage climate remained somewhat severe," the EPA official said. (AFP)



Alien Blockbuster Opens as NASA Moots "Life" on Mars

LONDON — A Hollywood blockbuster movie about an alien invasion of the planet earth opened in London Tuesday just hours before the U.S. space agency NASA announced that a primitive form of life may have existed on Mars.

The British premiere of "Independence Day" — which last month broke U.S. box office records for the fastest grossing film ever — attracted dozens of stars and several thousand screaming fans to the Odeon Cinema, in central London's Leicester Square.

Among the big names at the screening were the film's leading male actors, Jeff Goldblum and Bill Pullman.

In "Independence Day", directed by Roland Emmerich, highly advanced aliens swarm the earth like locusts. With inconceivable efficiency, they set out to destroy every major city, its landmarks and inhabitants.

But just when aliens are on the brink of executing their nefarious plan to annihilate humanity, the earthlings fight back by planting a computer virus in the aliens' main transport vessel, eventually eradicating the pesky intruders.

Despite poor reviews, the movie has taken a staggering $250 million at the box office worldwide so far, and is on course to eclipse the dinosaur flick "Jurassic Park" as one of the decade's biggest money spinners.

As the audience was leaving the London premiere late Tuesday, the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced in a statement in Washington that a simple, microscopic form of life resembling bacteria may have existed on Mars some three billion years ago. (See Pg 10) (AFP)

Shanghai Launches Graft Probe Into Senior Officials

SHANGHAI -- Shanghai, which prides itself as one of the cleanest cities in China, has launched a corruption probe into senior officials in a city district rapidly being transformed into a commercial center.

"The investigation has been going on for two or three months but I am unable to disclose any details," the office director of the Commission for Discipline Inspection said Wednesday.

"When the probe is completed we will make a public announcement."

He was responding to a report in a Hong Kong daily quoting investigators as saying that at least 10 officials responsible for district administration, public security, taxation, finance and trade in Xujiahui were under investigation.

The officials, some at director grade, were suspended from their posts last week, the report said, adding that none had yet been charged.

The office director said that the investigation was being aided by the district and municipal procuratorates and was limited to Xujiahui, much of which had been razed in the past three or four years to make way for shopping centers.

"It is a normal investigation and will take some time to complete," he said.

The *South China Morning Post* report quoted investigators as saying that the officials were suspected of abusing their positions by taking bribes, the total value of (Contd on Pg. 15)



LONDON, United Kingdom (August 6): A rare Kleinmanns tortoise, one of three born last week, crawls in a tiny matchbox as it is unveiled at London Zoo. The breed grows to only four inches (about 10 centimeters) in length.

(AFP PHOTO)

Victim's Parents Call On Police to Redouble Efforts

LAUNCESTON, England — The parents of Caroline Dickinson, the British schoolgirl raped and killed in Brittany in July, called Tuesday on French police to step up efforts to find second suspect after DNA tests showed that an initial suspect was not responsible for the rape.

"When on July 18 the news of our daughter's death reached us, our lives were changed for ever," said John and Sue Dickinson in a statement issued in Launceston, southwestern England.

"The news, some days later, that someone had been apprehended for this terrible crime was a small consolation. It now seems we have been denied even this," they said.

"We hope that the authorities will redouble their efforts to catch the culprit. The man who robbed Caroline of her future, and us of a lovely daughter, will not be free to commit such crime again," they said.

In Saint-Malo, northwestern France, judicial sources said on Tuesday that analysis of DNA taken from Patrice Pade, a 39-year-old homeless man said to have a history of sex attacks, did not match sperm found on the victim's body.

Pade was arrested on July 20 at Sourdeval in Normandy and immediately confessed the crime to gendarmes and then to examining magistrate Gerard Zaug, who is in charge of the case.

However, judicial sources said a second man, the actual rapist, might have been helped by Pade, who they said may have been the murderer even if he had not raped the girl.

The sources said gendarmes had continued their inquiries, seeking a second suspect because they found it difficult to believe the girl could have been attacked and killed without her roommates being woken.

The girl was raped and suffocated in the early hours of July 18 in a dormitory at the hostel in the Brittany village of Pleine-Fougeres as four of her classmates slept close by. (AFP)

Thieves Pull Off S. Africa's Biggest Robbery

DURBAN, South Africa — Five armed robbers on Tuesday pulled off South Africa's biggest-ever heist, stealing 43 million rand ($9.6 million) from a security company here, police said Tuesday.

Police spokesman Bala Naidoo said the thieves held up SBV Services, an armored transport firm, in Westmead on the outskirts of Durban early Tuesday morning.

Witnesses told police the five men entered the building holding one of the security guards at gunpoint.

Several guards and about 20 employees were then locked in a room while the robbers ransacked the establishment, the witnesses added.

The thieves loaded the money and some firearms into two company vehicles and fled, leaving behind several boxes containing tens of thousands of rand, according to Johannesburg's *Daily Star* newspaper.

Another police spokesman said an intensive investigation had been launched, including a helicopter search, but the robbers appeared to have vanished "without a trace."

One of two vehicles used by the robbers as a getaway car, was found abandoned in another Durban suburb sometime before noon, the spokesman said.

SBV Services later announced a one million rand ($224,000) reward for anyone giving information leading to the arrest and conviction of the thieves. (AFP)

Court Injunction and Money Offers Come Too Late

LONDON -- A London court order and thousands of pounds in private offers to a woman all proved too late Tuesday when it was announced that a planned abortion that has stirred up major controversy was already over and done with.

The unidentified 28-year-old woman had received offers totaling £46,000 ($70,000) not to have the abortion after a Sunday newspaper reported she wanted to have one of twin fetuses terminated because she was poor and unable to cope financially.

An anti-abortion group successfully applied to a London court Tuesday for an injunction banning the abortion.

Then a hospital spokesman confirmed that the operation had already taken place, but he refused to say when.

The money offers included £25,000 ($40,000) from a London couple pledged to the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC), and £20,000 ($30,000) from a businessman to the Christian radio station Premier Radio.

A London specialist, Professor Robert Winston, was critical of the proposed donations, saying the cash had been "unethically offered."

"They should ask themselves, if they really want to protect life, why don't they give that money to a good cause either in Ethiopia or perhaps the children in Bosnia," he said.

An Italian group, Movement for Life, offered the woman £140 ($210) a month if she chose not to abort.

The woman's obstetrician, Phillip Bennett of London's Queen Charlotte Hospital, was quoted in a Sunday press report as saying he agreed to the "selective termination" of one of the healthy fetuses as a way of saving the other.

The hospital spokesman said: "Professor Bennett has spoken to the woman who is happy for us to confirm that the operation has taken place. She is adamant she does not want any more details put out."

In the press report, Bennett was quoted as saying: "Killing one healthy twin sounds unethical, but my colleagues and I concluded this week that it would be better to terminate one pregnancy as soon as possible and leave one alive than to lose two babies."

Bennett explained his patient had wanted to terminate her pregnancy entirely, and that the possibility of a partial abortion was raised only after she told doctors she would continue the pregnancy if she were only carrying one baby.

A spokeswoman of the SPUC, which made the successful court injunction application said: "There have been a number of other offers of help, adoption, child-minding and baby-clothes."

The SPUC decided to make the court application after the various offers of financial support.

"We would not want her to think we are trying to bribe her," said Jack Scarisbrick, spokesman for the group Life.

"We are trying to say, 'Please don't do something which is horrible, which is liable to haunt you forever, and which is going to cause all sorts of trauma and grief'."

Professor Wendy Savage, a gynecologist, said she was unhappy about the methods of the anti-abortion groups. She regretted that the woman's medical history had been aired in public with an "auction" of an unborn child. (AFP)

Unwanted Admirer of Diana Removed From Palace

LONDON — A 36-year-old man described as an obsessed admirer of the Princess of Wales has been caught for the second time in the grounds of her residence at Kensington Palace, police said Tuesday.

Liam Kevin Whitney, an Irishman, set off an alarm when climbing over a fence inside the grounds of the central London palace on Monday. Police said he had not got into the palace security zone.

He had been caught by night inside the palace grounds only last May, explaining to police he simply wanted to see Princess Diana.

Police declined to say whether Princess Diana, who lives there with her two sons since her separation from Prince Charles, was in the palace Monday when Whitney entered the grounds.

Whitney was fined a total of £150 ($225) before a London magistrates' court for trespassing.

During his first offense in May, Whitney managed to get within 30 meters of Princess Diana's private apartments, and knocked on a window. (AFP)

New Paris Bridge Named for De Gaulle

PARIS — After Charles de Gaulle Airport and Place Charles de Gaulle, now there is the Charles de Gaulle Bridge, a splendid new span which was due to go into service Wednesday night across the Seine in the heart of Paris.

The six-lane, 208-meter (690-foot) and $45-million bridge links the left bank and the Latin quarter with the ultra-modern Bercy financial district.

The graceful new white structure is quite unlike the other 35 that span the Seine as it winds through Paris. Its architects conceived it as "the wing of a bird skimming the Seine."

Its name was chosen in 1990 by President Jacques Chirac, then Paris mayor, to honor the centenary of the late General De Gaulle, born in 1890.

De Gaulle, president of France between 1958 and 1969, has also lent his name to Paris's second major airport, after Orly.

And the Etoile, the bustling roundabout at the top of the Champs Elysees where the Arc de Triomphe stands, was officially renamed the Place Charles de Gaulle.

But old habits die hard and as far as many Parisians are concerned it's still the old Etoile, or "Star". (AFP)

Police Fear Backpacker Murderer Claimed More Victims

SYDNEY -- Investigations have been reopened into the murder nine years ago of a teenager now believed to have been an eighth victim of Australia's convicted backpacker murderer, police sources said Wednesday.

Detectives who helped send roadworker Ivin Milat, 51, to jail for life are also leading an extensive search of a forest west of here, which they fear may have been Milat's second burial ground.

The body of 18-year-old Peter Letcher was discovered by bushwalkers in the area -- the Jenolan State Forest, about 160 kilometers (100 miles) west of Sydney -- in January 1988.

Reports Wednesday said though Letcher's death occurred two years before the first of Milat's known victims was found, a few kilometers away in the Belanglo State Forest, the murders had many common features.

Letcher was killed in a similar manner -- his body was riddled with bullets and was left in a state forest covered by branches close to a walking track. No motive was ever discovered for the killing of the youth, an unemployed sawmiller from the town of Bathurst.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* quoted a police officer as saying: "There is a very strong chance that this is one of Ivan Milat's victims."

Police are now looking for spent cartridges and other evidence to link the murders and plan a three-day search for more bodies in the Jenolan forest.

The police media unit here would not comment on the reports, but other police sources confirmed to AFP that the reports were accurate.

Milat, 51, was convicted 11 days ago following a four-month trial over the murders of seven young backpackers, three Germans, two British and two Australian. He received seven life sentences. (AFP)

President Promoted -- by Himself

LIBREVILLE -- Equatorial Guinea's President Teodoro Obiang Nguema has been promoted to the rank of major general, under a presidential decree signed by himself, Malabo Radio reported.

Until now the former Brigadier General Obiang was the only officer above the rank of colonel in his country's army, but another presidential decree promoted his brother Colonel Antonio Obiang Nguema, the national security chief, to the rank of brigadier general.

The radio monitored in Libreville announced a series of army appointments to mark the 17th anniversary of Obiang's accession to power in a coup which overthrew his uncle on August 3, 1979. (AFP)

Global Biodiversity Assessment Report Released

The first Global Biodiversity Assessment report, released on November 14 by UNEP, has concluded that the Earth's biological resources are under serious threat. The damage being done today— largely as a result of human activities— would limit the range of options that people will have in the future. Little progress had also been made in establishing the scientific foundations to conserve and benefit from biological diversity and its components.

The 1,140-page report is the most comprehensive analysis of the science of biological diversity ever attempted. Funded by the Global Environment Facility and UNEP, the independent and peer-reviewed assessment is the work of over 1,500 scientists and experts from all parts of the world.

In contrast to the climate change and ozone layer treaties, the biodiversity treaty was not preceded by a comprehensive scientific assessment, partly because the field of biological diversity is very complex and because biodiversity researchers and observation systems are much more decentralized and location-specific.

The assessment focused on evaluating the scientific understanding of biodiversity's various components— ecosystem, species and genes— and on identifying gaps in the knowledge base that should be targeted for future research.

While great advances had been made in recent years, scientists still



UN stamps for endangered species (1996)

had only a very incomplete understanding of the Earth's biological diversity, the report stated. Gaps in data were enormous and estimates could sometimes differ by orders of magnitude.

The assessment found that ecosystems of all kinds were under pressure worldwide. Coastal and lowland areas, wetlands, native grasslands and many types of forests and woodlands had been particularly affected or destroyed. In the early to mid-1980s, humid tropical forests had been losing nearly 25 million acres annually, or just under 1 percent globally. Dry tropical forests might have lost even more area, and 10 percent of the 232,000 square miles of coral reefs in the world had already been eroded beyond recovery.

The report estimated that only 13 percent of the 13-14 million species on Earth had been scientifically described. It also noted that some 26,000 plant species and 5,44 animal species that had been recorded as threatened with extinction were far from the real total. Flowering plants and vertebrate animals had recently become extinct at over 50 to 100 times the average expected natural rate.

The report concluded that biodiversity management must go far beyond simply establishing isolated nature reserves or setting up agricultural seed banks. Instead, it must be fully integrated into all aspects of landscape management, including agriculture, socioeconomics and other relevant fields.

(Courtesy UN Chronicle)

Meningitis Under Control, Says Official

MAPUTO — A meningitis epidemic in Mozambique's northern Cabo Delgado Province is under control, the Head of the Health Ministry's Epidemiology Department Avertino Barreto said Tuesday.

The epidemic started in June in Namuno and quickly spread into the neighboring districts of Balama, Montepuez and Chiure, where 719 cases and 44 deaths were registered between June and last Friday.

Barreto announced that a vaccination program to cover the high risk areas, such as military barracks, boarding schools, prisons and creches, would be launched soon.

Barreto headed a medical team working in the affected areas over the past two weeks. *(AFP)*

Israeli Researchers Report Breakthrough in Herpes Treatment

BEERSHEVA — Israeli researchers have developed an anti-viral ointment based on extracts from algae which they say will provide an effective treatment for herpes, according to press reports Tuesday.

Researchers at Ben Gurion University in this southern Israeli city said laboratory tests on mice and rabbits had shown the cream to be effective against both the herpes simplex virus, which attacks the skin and nervous system, and another form of the virus which causes highly infectious genital herpes.

Current herpes treatment usually involves the synthetic drug acyclovir, which impedes reproduction of the viral DNA.

But doctors say that the medicine is expensive and can cause side effects and that there have been reports of increasing viral resistance to the drug.

The head of the Ben Gurion Team, Professor Shoshana Arad of the university's Applied Life Sciences Institute, said the newly developed cream, derived entirely from natural substances, has "no significant side effects, even during long-term use."

She said clinical trials would begin soon and that the product could be on the market within three years.

Ben Gurion University has sold development and marketing rights for the cream to the Swiss drugs firm Debiopharm.

(AFP)

Executive Beats Stress by Buying a Field

LONDON — An overworked British executive has found her own way to beat stress — by buying a meadow set in picturesque countryside and sitting in it.

Senior Management Consultant Margaret Gordon forked out 5,500 pounds ($8,000) to buy the 1.5 acre (0.6 hectare) field in Hampshire, southern England, and claims she has found an idyllic sanctuary from the modern world.

Gordon, 43, who earns 30,000 pounds ($45,000) a year advising executives in public companies and local government how to tackle stress, packs her deck chair and drives the 16 kilometers (10 miles) from her home to the meadow at the end of a hard week's work.

She unwinds by simply sitting alone in the field and reading, taking in the view, or listening to the birdsong.

"A field costs less than the average secondhand car and has virtually no running costs," she said Tuesday.

"And instead of depreciating, it will become an heirloom. I intend to pass mine on to my two children," she added. *(AFP)*

Cigarette Sales Drag After Smoking Ban

BEIJING — A ban on smoking in public places has caused cigarette sales to plunge by almost 40 percent in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, the Xinhua news agency reported Monday.

Citizens of this boom city bought 393,950 packets of cigarettes in June, down a massive 39.7 percent from the same period a year earlier, the report said.

"It is not uncommon now to see a smoker on the city's streets greeted with a storm of protest from passersby," the article said.

All of China's major cities have implemented bans on smoking in public places, but the regulation has met with less success in Beijing and Shanghai where hardened smokers still light up without approbation.

China is the world's largest tobacco producer and consumer, with 350 million regular smokers.

(AFP)

Female Sperm Whales Show "Family Values"

WASHINGTON – Sperm whales form families of several females and their offspring, usually fathered by the same male, and spend years together, according to a study of whale social organization conducted along the equator.

The female sperm whales and their offspring of both sexes form groups of 10 to 30 animals, in which the adults apparently share the raising of the offspring, according to the most recent edition of the proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

The study – done by scientists from the Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, using genetic analyses of members of three communities – found that the children had the same father.

The researchers concluded that the females in the group remain together for years, perhaps for their entire lives. The male – who does not live with the group – joins them for several hours from time to time, impregnating two or three of the females in a visit.

Young male whales leave the group around age six, the study found. *(AFP)*

THOUGHT

MAN adjusts to what he should not, he is unable to adjust to what he should.

African Ameiran author

PRAYER

Noon 13:10
Evening 20:21
Dawn (tomorrow) 4:36
Sunrise (tomorrow) 6:20

SCRABBLE GRAMS

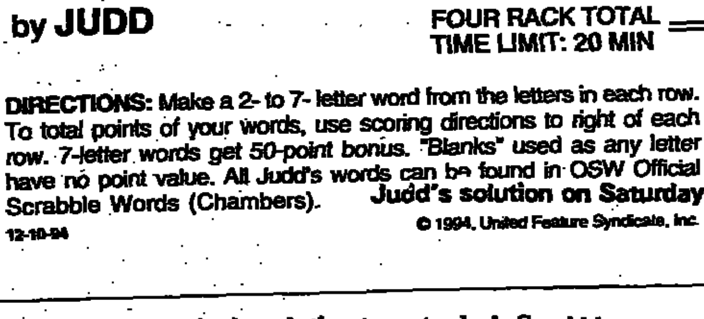
SCRABBLE BRAND G2 R1 A1 M3 S1

S1 E1 U1 U1 T1 O1 N1 — RACK 1

H4 E1 I1 P3 C3 N1 R1 — 4th Letter Double — RACK 2

C3 N1 A1 E1 I1 L1 P3 — RACK 3

I1 I1 U1 Q10 T1 N1 N1 — Double Word Score — RACK 4



PAR SCORE 135-145

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). Judd's solution on Saturday

12-10-94

Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

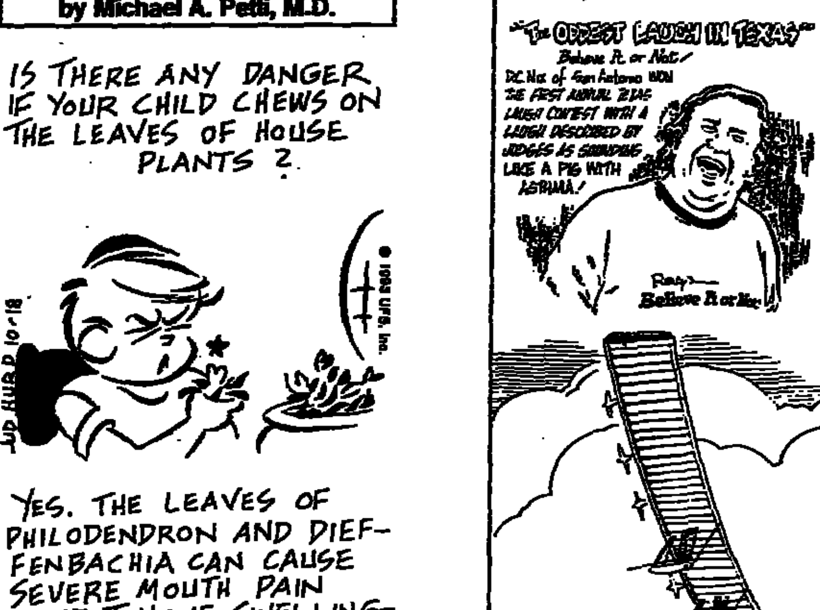
L1 E1 X8 I1 C3 O1 N1	RACK 1 =	98
P3 A1 R1 I1 A1 H4 S1	RACK 2 =	86
W4 H4 I1 M3 P3 E1 R1	RACK 3 =	67
O1 R1 C3 H4 I1 D2	RACK 4 =	12
PAR SCORE 170-180	JUDD'S TOTAL	263

12-9-94

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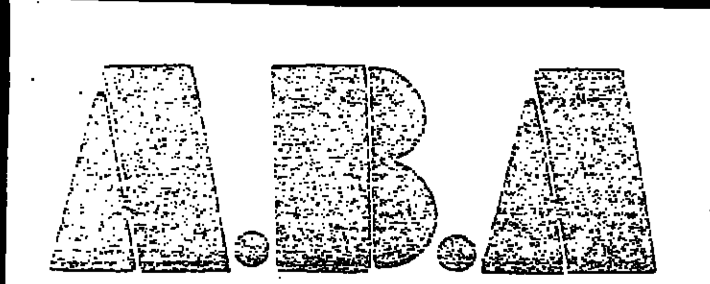
BEEP! BIP! BIP!

OKAY... IF TOMMY HAS EIGHT APPLES, AND HE DIVIDES THEM AMONG FOUR OF HIS FRIENDS, HOW MANY APPLES WILL EACH FRIEND GET?

YOU. DON'T?

IF THEY DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, THEY SHOULDN'T CALL THEMSELVES "INFORMATION"

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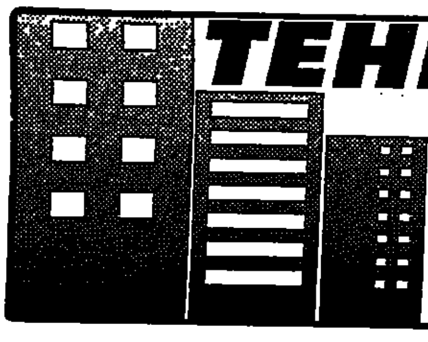
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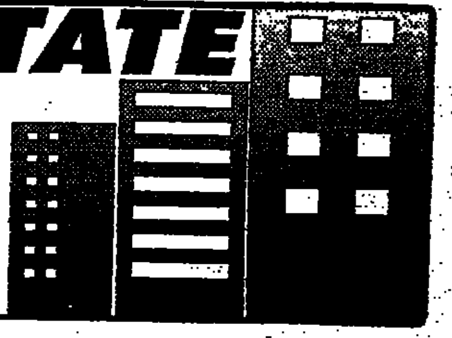
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AUCTION

The Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran, 13/1, Boustan Ave., Elahiyeh, P.O. Box 19395-4683, 19649 Tehran, is selling by way of auction a NISSAN PATHFINDER, year 1987, 59,000 miles.

Applicants wishing to participate in this closed bid may see the car and place a bid from Sunday August 11, 1996 for three days from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Closed bids, addressed to the Administration Office should be received no later than Monday August 19, 1996.

Any charges regarding taxes, custom duties, changing of ownership, etc. will be the sole responsibility of the buyer.

The Embassy of Switzerland reserves the right to accept or refuse any offer. Payment or any charge will be by banker's check upon acceptance of the bid.

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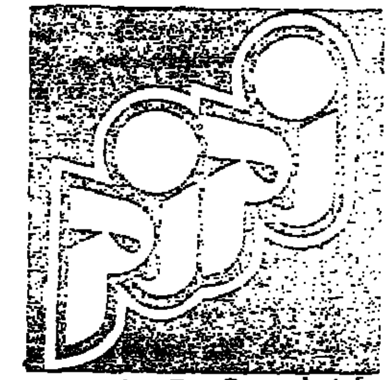
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Rasht Zam Zam Company



Engineer Jahan-Ara, managing director of Rasht Zam Zam Co. took part in an interview with the *Tehran Times* reporter at Anzali Fair and elaborated on the achievements and objectives of his company:

Founded in 1958, Rasht Zam Zam Company became operational in 1963. The company is mainly active in production and distribution of beverages according to national standards. The company launches quality control operations to offer high quality products. The goal has been achieved to a great deal thus far.

Due to the management replacement, utilization of the state-of-the-art technology along with the latest scientific and industrial achievements in the field, also measures taken toward the mechanization of the company, Rasht Zam Zam Co. can accomplish the goal still more if it is supported financially.

Also Engineer Rahimzadeh, commercial manager of the company attended the interview saying, surplus of family products packaged in P.E.T dishes for the first time in the province can be exported to other markets regarding ease of transportation from Anzali Port.

The said project can create employment opportunities in the province and also attracts hard currency, if responsible provincial authorities support the project financially.



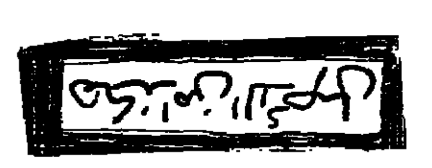
"It should be mentioned that in tandem with the development policies of the company and participating in a safe competition with other companies in the field, Rasht Zam Zam has enjoyed an 80% growth as compared with that of last year. At present this company shares 70% of the provincial market's distribution," said the engineer.

Elsewhere he referred to Engineer Jahan-Ara's scientific management and planning and said his proper decision-making has glorified the company throughout the province.

The goal has been achieved through warmhearted support of Vali-e Faqih Representative and Friday Prayer Leader of the province, Ayatollah Ehsan-Bakhsh, province's popular Governor General Engineer Tahaei, General Director of Province Industries Engineer Akhoondzadeh and provincial officials as well as management of the group.

Rasht Zam Zam Co. products for the first quarter of the current year exceed 46.5 million bottles that shows a 66% growth as compared to last year's rate.





Making It Happen

Current trends in population growth and industrialization ensure that wastes and pollutants are released faster than the earth can absorb them, and that natural resources are consumed faster than they can be restored. The productivity of raw materials will have to be improved four to 10 times over if both the needs of the growing world population are to be met and the planet's life-support systems are to be preserved.

If sustainable development is too be achieved, production processes, products and services will all have to be reoriented towards new patterns too alleviate environmental stress and to increase industrial productivity. New policy and management tools will have to be developed and used in both government and industry. So will environmentally sound technologies which focus on cleaner and safer technologies that prevent pollution and use raw materials efficiently.

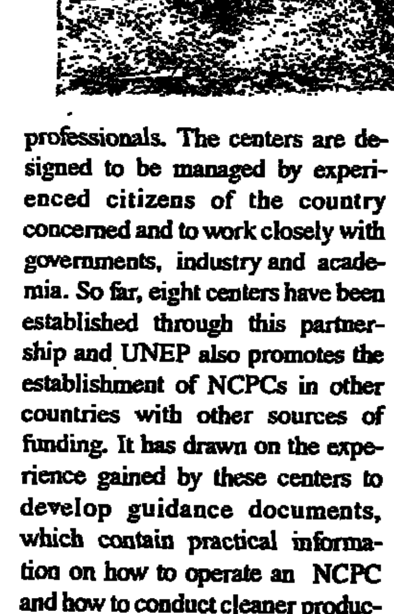
This is the perspective that led UNEP to launch its Cleaner Production Program in 1990. For the last five years, UNEP has been developing consensus on the concept of cleaner production and providing information on management tools and technologies to make it a reality on the ground. It has been developing training activities, helping to build up local capabilities and identifying barriers to cleaner production — and opportunities for it — through demonstration activities. It has also facilitated a network exchange of information among those involved.

Cleaner production is a preventive strategy aiming at eliminating pollution at source and conserving raw materials, including energy and water. There is a distinct difference between this and the traditional form of environmental protection, often called 'pollution control' or 'waste management'. it is about taking proactive steps within production systems, whereas traditional pollution control is reactive and aims at curing and restoring after the damage has taken place.

The World Bank estimated in 1992 that East Asian countries alone would have to spend up to $20 billion every year of this decade just to clean up the environmental damage brought about by their rapid industrialization and population growth. By contrast, there is repeated, proven evidence that cleaner production makes good immediate economic sense as well as being an investment in future sustainable development.

Small Investment, Fast Payback

UNEP and its government and industry partners have developed hundreds of case studies, which are reported in UNEP's cleaner production booklets and on its database. These provide convincing examples that cleaner production can be achieved in companies of all sizes. The investments are often small, between $20,000 and $100,000, and the paybacks very short, six months to two years. The paybacks result from savings in the use of raw materials and the need for waste treatment, and from increased workers' safety. The company also improves its image. Indeed, cleaner production — are called eco-efficiency, waste minimization or pollution prevention — is the main path towards reconciling environmental protection and economic development.



Cleaner production can be achieved in several ways, including changing attitudes, applying management tools and using improved technology. Cleaner production assessments are particularly important: They can identify options for improved housekeeping, substitutes for toxic materials and new technologies for processes. So are life-cycle assessments, which can improve product design. UNEP, with its partners, has been contributing to sharing information on tools like these and helping to promote their implementation.

Working groups of internationally recognized experts from around the world collect up-to-date information and organize seminars and workshops. There are currently eight formal groups. Two of them cover education and policy strategies and instruments. The other six are organized by specific industrial sectors: Metal finishing, textiles, leather tanning, biotechnology, food and sustainable production development.

Building capacity within an organization — whether it be in government or the private sector — is the most effective way to ensure that the philosophy of cleaner production is implemented. The Cleaner Production Program has increasingly focused, in partnership with other organizations, on promoting self-sustaining programs in developing countries and in countries in transition.

Cleaner Production Centers

UNEP has joined forces with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to support the establishment of National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs) in a number of countries. These are to play a catalytic role in promoting cleaner production by providing technical information and advice, stimulating demonstrations of techniques and training industry and government professionals. The centers are designed to be managed by experienced citizens of the country concerned and to work closely with governments, industry and academia. So far, eight centers have been established through this partnership and UNEP also promotes the establishment of NCPCs in other countries with other sources of funding. It has drawn on the experience gained by these centers to develop guidance documents, which contain practical information on how to operate an NCPC and how to conduct cleaner production assessments and audits. A newsletter helps the exchange of information on NCPC activities.



The Cleaner Production Project in the People's Republic of China provides another example of UNEP's catalytic and capacity building role. Here — through the combined funding and expertise of the World Bank, UNEP and the National Environmental Protection Agency of China — a program of audits was carried out in 20 industrial facilities, with the aims of demonstrating benefits and of training Chinese experts who could in turn train others and disseminate the new approach. Demonstration activities in the cement and pulp and paper industries have been carried out in Egypt, Senegal and Zimbabwe with the aim of identifying cleaner production opportunities and barriers in developing countries.

More generally, UNEP has conducted seminars and workshops at local or subregional level. These are targeted not just at industry managers and government officials, but also at the university professors who are educating the decision makers of tomorrow. The corresponding training materials are available.

Cleaner production has become common parlance since 1990 and many programs and projects are now blossoming throughout the world. There are now 41 NCPCs operating in 35 countries, while 110 organizations in 51 countries are involved in the UNEP network.

Promoting Partnerships

UNEP has been promoting partnerships to achieve greater synergy and better results and to make more efficient use of very limited resources. These involve other United Nations or international organizations (such as UNIDO, the World Bank, the United Nations regional commissions, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Union), industry or industry associations (particularly the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and its eco-efficiency program) and many nongovernmental organizations, universities, governments and individuals.

Every two years, UNEP convenes a high level seminar to review worldwide progress, assess barriers and recommend future orientations: The next will be hosted by the government of the United Kingdom in Oxford in September 1996. UNEP hopes that effective results will be reported — but it is also well aware that greater efforts, involving all sectors of society and every individual, will be necessary.

As Elizabeth Dowdeswell, UNEP's executive director, put it recently: "Building sustainable consumption and production patterns globally is a task of immense complexity. It means changing the underlying economic principles, including the relationship between the North and the South, in a cooperative long-term endeavor. It means examining our societal goals and lifestyles, injecting an ethical perspective to our action. it means living with the ecological limits of our planet and the social limits of society."

Cleaner Production in Practice

* A cement company in Indonesia has used cleaner production techniques to improve process control, thus saving $350,000 a year. The payback period was less than 12 months.
* A metal treatment company in Singapore installed a new cleaner production process that saved $87,000 a year. The payback period was two years.
* A decision to recycle chromium in a Greek tannery reduced chromium pollution and waste from about 30 to about 4 percent and saved $43,500 a year. The payback period was 11 months.
* A study of painting processes in a Polish steel industry suggests that changing the technology could reduce wastes, cut down on solvent and paint use and save thousands of dollars a year — for a capital investment that would be repaid in a few months.



Simple Life Form May Have Existed on Mars

WASHINGTON — A simple, microscopic form of life that resembles bacteria may have existed on Mars some three billion years ago, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced recently.

Evidence of life on the red planet was found in a meteorite from Mars that landed on earth about 13,000 years ago, said NASA administrator Daniel Goldin in a statement.

"The evidence is exciting, even compelling, but not conclusive," Goldin said.

"I want everyone to understand that we are not talking about 'little green men.' These are extremely small, single-cell structures that somewhat resemble bacteria on earth," he said. "There is no evidence or suggestion that any higher life form ever existed on Mars."

In London, the BBC reported quoting from a leaked NASA report that the meteorite — which was discovered in Antarctica in 1984 — contains crude fossils from primitive micro-organisms.

Under a powerful microscope, NASA scientists saw shapes on the melon-sized meteorite which looked like tiny bacteria that lived on earth some 3.5 billion years ago, according to the BBC.

The meteorite from Mars is believed to have blasted away from the red planet's surface during a violent storm, and any primitive forms of Martian life could have hitched to earth.

British scientists at the Natural History Museum in London have also studied fragments of the meteorite and found remnants of organic material possibly from underground water reserves.

Mars boasts a number of dried river beds and it is thought that subterranean pools could provide a home for simple life forms.

A scientist at the Natural History Museum said the findings, if correct, were some of the most sensational in scientific history.

"It's entirely possible that very, very primitive organisms might have arisen," Monica Grady told the BBC.

(Contd on Pg.14)

Compaq Launches Workstation Division

HOUSTON, Texas — Compaq Computers, the world's largest producer of personal computers, announced Monday it was creating a workstation division for the business market.

"The formation of our workstation division, particularly as an organization within our newly announced enterprise computing group, is critical to Compaq's expanded global leadership goal and our ability to offer customers comprehensive distributed enterprise computing solutions," Compaq senior vice president John Rose said in a statement.

The new workstations will be equipped with the Microsoft Windows NT operating system.

The company plans to begin marketing the workstations in the last quarter of 1996, Compaq said.

The use of new Pentium Pro microprocessors will help keep the cost of the workstations down, the company added.

Other computer makers, including Hewlett-Packard and Digital Equipment Corp. already sell workstations but Compaq promises to "offer extremely attractive price/performance alternatives to proprietary workstation solutions from traditional Unix/RISC-based vendors," the company said.

According to an estimate by Dataquest, workstations only represented $881 million of the $14.2 billion computer market in 1995.

(AFP)



UN Takes Back Seat After Burundi Coup

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations is taking a back seat in the aftermath of the Burundi coup, preferring to adopt a "wait and see" attitude while the country's African neighbors take the lead, diplomats here say.

Asked by reporters whether the UN Security Council would support African economic sanctions to protest the coup which returned the Tutsi minority to power, council president Tono Eitel of Germany said, "That is not decided yet."

However, Western diplomats said that in the absence of any specific request from Burundi's neighbors for Security Council action, the sanctions issue has not even been discussed by the council's 15 members.

Kenya and Tanzania have so far imposed the sanctions demanded by seven African nations at the Arusha Summit last week to exert pressure on major Pierre Buyoya's regime to restore constitutional rule.

Buyoya, a Tutsi former president who surrendered power to an elected government in 1993, was installed in the July 25 coup that ousted President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, a Hutu.

"Certainly any request must come from the main players, notably the OAU (Organization of African Unity) and the countries of the sub-region," says UN Assistant Secretary-General Lansana Kouyate, responsible for African affairs.

But in the light of the disastrous humanitarian impact of six-year-old UN sanctions on Iraq, the United Nations has already ordered an assessment of the regional embargo's impact.

UN spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said here that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Program (WFP) were concerned about their supply lines into Burundi being cut.

The Security Council has adopted a lower profile since July 25, after issuing a stern warning as Ntibantunganya fled to the U.S. ambassador's residence on the eve of the coup that it would condemn any overthrow of the legitimate government.

In the days that followed, the council's permanent members, notably France and the United States, apparently realized that Buyoya was a known quantity who might lead Burundi out of the ethnic quagmire.

Chilean Ambassador Juan Somavia was among those in the council who unsuccessfully argued for a condemnation of the coup, regardless of whether the new regime was acceptable to "certain members" of the council.

"Then, you sit down and see what the parties are, and obviously the one that staged the coup is part of the solution," he told AFP.

Somavia stressed that the council would be monitoring the humanitarian situation in Burundi closely, although other Western diplomats said that no council action was likely unless there was a sudden catastrophe.

No Western countries have offered troops for a rapid reaction force that might have to intervene in Burundi in case of a humanitarian disaster.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns summed up the U.S. position: "We hope very much that Major Buyoya will make every effort to restore constitutional rule and to try to stabilize the situation."

"Our primary interest remains the prevention of a genocide in Burundi," he added.

According to Kouyate, a Guinean national, "at least the coup clarified the situation as it was the (Tutsi-dominated) army that was fighting the Hutu extremists."

He noted that the last doomed power-sharing arrangement, with a figurehead Hutu president, a prime minister from the Tutsis who controlled the army, and a Parliament dominated by the Hutu majority, had been a recipe for trouble.

But Kouyate was skeptical that Buyoya, who has brought Hutu moderates into his government, would be able to "wave a magic wand" to overcome Burundi's "very pronounced tribalism" and the guerrilla warfare waged by the Hutu rebels. (AFP)



KIRYAT ARBA, West Bank (August 5): Palestinian labor workers on a new construction site in Kiryat Arba, a Jewish settlement near the West Bank flashpoint town of Al-Khalil. New Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sparked anger among Arabs after his government agreed to ease restrictions on expanding the existing settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

(AFP PHOTO)

Witness Said He Saw Tadic at Detention Camp

THE HAGUE — For the first time in the trial of suspected war criminal Dusan "Dusko" Tadic, a witness at the UN International Tribunal identified the accused as being at the Trnopolje detention camp in northwest Bosnia.

Bosnian Serb Tadic, 40, is accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. With the trial entering its 12th week, Tadic has until now denied ever having set foot in the camps where, according to the charges, he allegedly carried out atrocities.

Vasif Gutic, a 40-year-old Muslim who was a doctor at the Trnopolje camp from May to October 1992, told the tribunal that he saw Tadic come to the camp to deliver a document to the deputy commander. According to the witness, it was a list of prisoners arriving from Kozarac, Tadic's home town.

Tadic, who was accompanied by several others including his co-accused Goran Borovnica, then held a heated discussion with the deputy commander, Gutic told the court. He could not be sure of the date of the encounter.

The witness said he knew Tadic before the war as a karate instructor in Kozarac, and also as owner of a cafe where Borovnica worked as a waiter.

Earlier, Gutic had described the appalling living conditions in the Trnopolje camp, a former school converted by the Serbs into a detention camp for Muslims.

The doctor spoke for about 20 minutes on what he had been told by some detainees — the youngest of whom were 11 or 12 years old — raped by Serb guards.

The women were led in the evening to nearby houses where they were abused, he said.

Tadic is accused of having killed 13 Muslims and tortured 18 others in the detention camps and during ethnic cleansing operations in the Prijedor region in northwestern Bosnia between May and December 1992. (AFP)



AMMAN, Jordan (August 5): King Hussein of Jordan (R) smokes a cigarette while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu watches a waiter as he puts down a glass of water during a press conference at the Royal Palace in Amman Netanyahu arrived in Amman August 5 on his first official visit to Jordan for talks with King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials on reviving the peace process in the Middle-East and boosting trade links between their two countries.

(AFP PHOTO)

Singapore National Day Comes Amid Worries Over Economic Slowdown

SINGAPORE — Singapore enters its 32nd year as an independent state on Friday amid worries over an economic slowdown ahead of looming general elections.

The stock market is down and the property market subdued by a government crackdown on speculation. Manufacturing, the engine of the island's economy, is losing momentum because of a global electronics slowdown, analysts say.

Investment House Vickers Ballas warned in a report of "rising concern about the economy slowing down sharply" and denting corporate earnings. This, it said, had caused foreign funds to sell down the Singapore stock market.

The small, affluent city-state saw its economy growing 8.8 percent in 1995 after expanding by a robust 10 percent in each of the previous two years.

"The economic slowdown is obviously going to hit consumers' and investors' confidence but the stark reality is that Singapore cannot continue growing so rapidly because it is a maturing economy," said Desmond Supple, economist with British financial consultancy IDEA.

Analysts scaled down Singapore's growth prospects for 1996 after non-oil domestic exports — a key barometer of its economic resilience — fell 6.1 percent year-on-year in June, the sharpest dive since a 1991-1992 slowdown.

Economic growth in the first quarter of 1996 had been a blistering 10.7 percent, prompting the government to revise upwards its growth projection for the whole year to 7.5-to-8.5 percent.

Planners are studying whether the forecast should be scaled down, and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong's National Day message could spell out the economic outlook.

"We believe the second quarter growth will now go down to 6.5 percent, below what the market is looking at, around 7.7 percent," said Chua Piang Sze, economist with Vickers Ballas.

Supple said he did not expect the global electronics market to recover before the first half of 1997.

"While the outlook for the external sector does not look promising, there are also no signs of recovery in the other sectors of the economy to take the slack caused by weak export growth," he said.

Bank loans have slowed, stock market turnover has fallen and property transactions dwindled.

A survey by the *Business Times* and the National University of Singapore this week showed business sentiment had weakened sharply in the second quarter, with small firms particularly pessimistic about second-half prospects.

But analysts say the gloomy economic picture is not expected to take the shine off the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) in elections expected to be called by Prime Minister Goh before the end of the year.

The opposition only has four seats in Singapore's 81-member Parliament, dominated by the PAP since 1959.

"The government's record on the economy has been good. I don't think there is anything to worry voters," said Manminder Singh, economist with Nomura Research Institute.

"Singaporeans have seen some very good growth rates and I don't think they can blame the government purely on external factors," he said.

Singh said the government remained focused on its economic policies, particularly its drive to attract manufacturing investments averaging more than S$10 billion ($7.14 billion) annually over the next 10 years.

Guided by the government's successful economic strategy, Singapore has become the world's 15th richest country with its three million citizens enjoying an annual per-capita income of $24,500.

A former British colony, the island with a largely ethnic Chinese population joined the Malaysian Federation in 1963 but left two years later in a dispute over racial rights. (AFP)

Some 100,000 Refugees in Rump Yugoslavia Sign Up for Bosnia Vote

BELGRADE — More than 100,000 Bosnian refugees living in rump Yugoslavia have registered to vote in Bosnia's first post-war general elections next month, an official with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said.

Jean-Pierre Kleiner said that a third of the refugees opted to vote for candidate lists in their area of origin.

Those voters, mostly Muslims who fled areas in Bosnia under Croat control, will be able to cast their ballots in polling stations in Serbia and Montenegro.

The majority of the refugees are Serbs, who plan to vote in the Serb entity in Bosnia, the Republika Srpska, in the area where they plan to live.

Kleiner said that the registration procedure had gone reasonably well and added that a representative from the OSCE, which is in charge of organizing and supervising the September 14 elections, will be stationed at each polling station.

"Only a few isolated cases of intimidation against the refugees were reported," he said.

The Belgrade Office of the Helsinki Committee on Human Rights had earlier said that Bosnian refugees had been pressured to ask to vote under a scheme where they would cast their ballot in the region where they plan to later settle.

An estimated 215,000 refugees live in the rump Yugoslavia. (AFP)



Serbs Have Broken Spirit of Karadzic Agreement: OSCE

SARAJEVO — The Bosnian Serbs have "broken the spirit" of a pledge they made that indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic withdraw from politics, a Bosnian official said on Tuesday.

Karadzic and other senior Bosnian Serb leaders pledged last month that the former rebel chief would step down from all his political posts and not appear in public or on television.

However, Robert Frowick, the head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe mission responsible for overseeing the September national poll said the Serbs had failed to keep their word on the U.S.-brokered accord.

"I would say that the spirit of (this agreement) has been put into question by (recent) developments," Frowick told reporters a day after holding talks with the Serb leadership.

In violation of the July agreement, Serb-controlled media have broadcast prominent pictures of Karadzic while he himself has attended various meetings of his ruling SDS Party.

The agreement brokered by the U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, was intended to keep Karadzic who has been indicted by the Interantional Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia out of the election in line with a peace accord ban on indicted war criminals holding office.

Frowick said the Serb leadership promised that such "direct abuses" of the agreement would end. However, he said it would be difficult to enforce a ban on the ubiquitous posters of Karadzic that are plastered around Republika Srpska, the Bosnian Serb entity that occupies one half of the country.

"We were told that Karadzic's photograph would not appear at political events, but (they argued) that you cannot keep people from putting posters up in their homes but at political events you can control that, and they would," Frowick said.

However, Frowick admitted that as long as Karadzic remained in Bosnia it was likely he would continue to influence events from behind the scenes.

"As long as he is in Bosnia you have to expect that there's some kind of contact (with the other Serb leaders)," Frowick said.

Other violations addressed at Monday's meeting with Aleksa Buha, the acting head of the SDS following Karadzic's "resignation", were reports of humanitarian aid being conditionally denied to certain voters.

Frowick said that Buha promised him to put an end to such behavior.

(AFP)

Election of Bangladesh's New President Challenged in Court

DHAKA — A high court here has challenged the legality of last month's election of former chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as Bangladesh's new president.

The two-judge court, acting on a landmark writ, late Monday issued a court order, asking the chief of the election commission, the secretary of the Law Ministry and Ahmed himself to explain "under what authority of law justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was declared president-elect of the republic."

Abu Bakar Siddiqi, a Supreme Court lawyer, earlier filed the writ which argues that Ahmed's "illegal" election should be invalid as Bangladesh's constitution bars retired or dismissed judges from holding any office of profit in the republic.

The court fixed August 12 for the hearing of the case and appointed a three-member panel of senior constitutional lawyers to act as impartial advisors in the case.

"The rule should be issued as the matter is of great public interest and constitutional aspects," judges M. Mozammel Haq and M. Abdul Matin said, regarding the issuing of the court order.

Ahmed was nominated by the ruling Awami League of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed as presidential candidate last month and was elected unopposed July 22.

Directly after Ahmed's election, allegations of illegality due to his status as former chief justice were made by figures from the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Siddiqi, who filed the writ, is known to support the BNP.

Ahmed is expected to take over after the incumbent President Abdur Rahman Biswas vacates his office. Biswas's five-year tenure expires on October 8.

Ahmed retired from the judiciary on February 1 last year.

(AFP)

Text of Agreement on Mostar City Council

MOSTAR, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The following are the principal extracts. from the text of the agreement signed by Bosnian Croats and Muslims in Mostar Tuesday.

"We, the undersigned, accept the ... establishment of a functioning city administration.

We undertake to cooperate fully with the special envoy of the European Union of the city of Mostar.

We take note of the objections of the HDZ (the main Bosnian Croat party) against the decision of the EU ombudsman (over the election results) and its complaint to the Appropriate Court of the (Muslim-Croat) Federation. We expect the court to take an urgent decision on this matter within the time frame set by Article 24 of the interim statute of the city of Mostar (the City Council must meet at least every 60 days).

Both sides call on their leaders to expedite the establishment, i.e. the work of the Appropriate Court ...

The City Council shall convene in August and elect the mayor and the deputy mayor. This will enable essential executive functions of the city to be carried out. The council shall meet again after the court has handed down its decision ...

The mayor and the deputy mayor shall cooperate closely with the special envoy of the European Union in fulfilling his mandate.

(AFP)

Algeria Opposition Bows Out of Presidential Talks

ALGIERS — One of Algeria's main opposition parties dealt a blow Tuesday to President Liamine Zeroual's aims of bringing political harmony to the troubled North African country, against a backdrop of continuing fightings.

"The FFS (Socialist Forces Front) has decided to withdraw from the process underway until conditions for a real dialogue, under a comprehensive political accord, come together," party leader Seddick Debaili told a press conference.

Debaili was speaking after an overnight bomb blast in a downtown Algiers restaurant which wounded at least five people, the latest in a spate of attacks, which have killed around 20 people and injured many others across Algeria.

Debaili, who earlier met with Zeroual, said the FFS will not take part in a national conference grouping all main political parties and due to be held by the end of the summer.

However, it would participate in legislative elections expected next year, depending on security conditions during the vote.

Zeroual has been holding talks with opposition parties on the political future of Algeria to prepare for the national conference, a referendum on constitutional changes and legislative elections.

The restaurant attacked on Tuesday was near a police station targetted by a suicide bomb attack in January 1995 in which 42 people died and 300 were wounded.

The five, who suffered only slight injuries, were hurt when the home-made device exploded just after midday (1105 GMT), security officials said. Diners spotted the device and had evacuated the building just before it exploded, witnesses said.

Islamic groups have been fighting the military-backed Algerian government since the army stepped in to annul elections in January 1992 which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had been poised to win.

Around 50,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

(AFP)



HIROSHIMA, Japan (August 6): Children see off hundreds of lanterns floating on the Motoyasu River before the Atomic Bomb Dome in the background in rememberance of A-bomb victims in Hiroshima the 51st anniversary of the A-bomb blast which killed hundreds of thousands of people. The A-bomb dropped in Hiroshima for the first time in history August 6, 1945 at the last stage of WWII.

(AFP PHOTO)

Multiparty Conference Demands Pakistan Beef Up Its Nuke Program

LAHORE, Pakistan — A multi-party conference sponsored by the Jamaat-e Islami (JI) here Tuesday demanded that Pakistan strengthen its nuclear program to ward off "dangers" from India.

The conference, attended by 25 religious and political parties, also demanded that Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States commit in the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to destroy their nuclear warheads.

If they "are really interested in saving the world from an atomic war they should first of all agree to add a clause to the CTBT that they will destroy their own nuclear warheads and missiles before a given date," a conference resolution said.

The conference participants included the main opposition Pakistan League, which is led by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Accusing Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government of showing a "weak, evasive, and ambiguous" attitude on the CTBT issue, the resolution said Pakistan should not sign the CTBT before India and Israel join it.

Referring to Bhutto's statement that Pakistan would not sign the CTBT unless India also did so, the resolution said this stand "is not free from dangers."

The resolution said India could agree to sign anytime after securing "certain securities and advantages" and in that case Pakistan would have to sign the treaty "unilaterally."

It is "imperative" for Pakistan to continue its "atomic program without entertaining any hindrance and pressure," the conference said.

The resolution said Pakistan faced "dangers to its very existence" from India which exploded a nuclear device in 1974 and had "enmassed heaps of enriched uranium capable of making more than a 100 atomic bombs."

"Pakistan's defense depends solely on its deterrent nuclear capability," the resolution said.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmed Ali called on India Saturday to accept the CTBT currently under negotiation in Geneva.

Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral told Parliament in New Delhi on Friday that India would not give in to U.S. pressure over the CTBT.

India has refused to approve the treaty until the five declared nuclear powers — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — agree to a timebound framework for scrapping their nuclear weapons.

(AFP)

Third Time Works the Charm for Dole

WASHINGTON — The third time has worked the charm for Bob Dole, who clinches the Republican presidential nomination next week after two bitterly disappointing tries prompted a final all-or-nothing bid.

The veteran legislator had his mind made up early last year about challenging President Bill Clinton, who presented a good target after Republicans defeated his party in Congress in 1994.

But a rough ride in the state primary races and arch-conservative Pat Buchanan's win in the critical first contest in New Hampshire convinced Dole halfway through that he needed a dramatic step to keep his campaign alive until November.

So, in June the Senate leader resigned from the Congress he served for 35 years announcing that it was now just "the White House or home."

It was a big gamble for Dole, who also served as majority leader in 1984-86 and spent more time at the Capitol than at "home," a Washington apartment he shares with his wife, Elizabeth, and his Schnauzer dog leader.

But though the 73-year-old trails Clinton by some 20 points and has fallen on his sword with missteps over tobacco and abortion, Dole is convinced about one aspect of his White House bid.

"I have the experience. I've been tested and tested and tested in many ways. I am not afraid to lead and I know the way," he said in an address in his home state of Kansas.

Though self-conscious about his right arm — he always grasps a pen with that hand to keep people from shaking it — Dole now points to the World War II wound to highlight his military record.

He talks at length about his grueling recovery in the Midwest farm state and how the community came together to get the best orthopedic surgeon.

The wartime reminiscences are widely seen as aimed at reminding voters Clinton avoided the Vietnam war and outraged the military with a campaign promise to lift the ban on gays.

But they also zero in on Dole's biggest sore point — age.

Despite his year-round tan and brown hair, at 73 Dole will be older than any newly elected president and polls show most voters think he's just too old for the job.

Dole has sought to dismiss concerns by suggesting he might serve only one term if elected and announcing on his birthday last month that he would allow medical advisors to decide whether he should step down in case of illness.

And though he stepped down from the Senate, Dole is still plagued by his Washington insider credentials which he began building when first elected to the house in 1960 and then to the Senate in 1968.

That has been a liability at a time when voters say his Republican Party has taken the Congress too far to the right since its 1994 takeover.

Dole's attempts to distance himself from the party's extreme right led by House Speaker Newt Gingrich have frequently landed him in hot water.

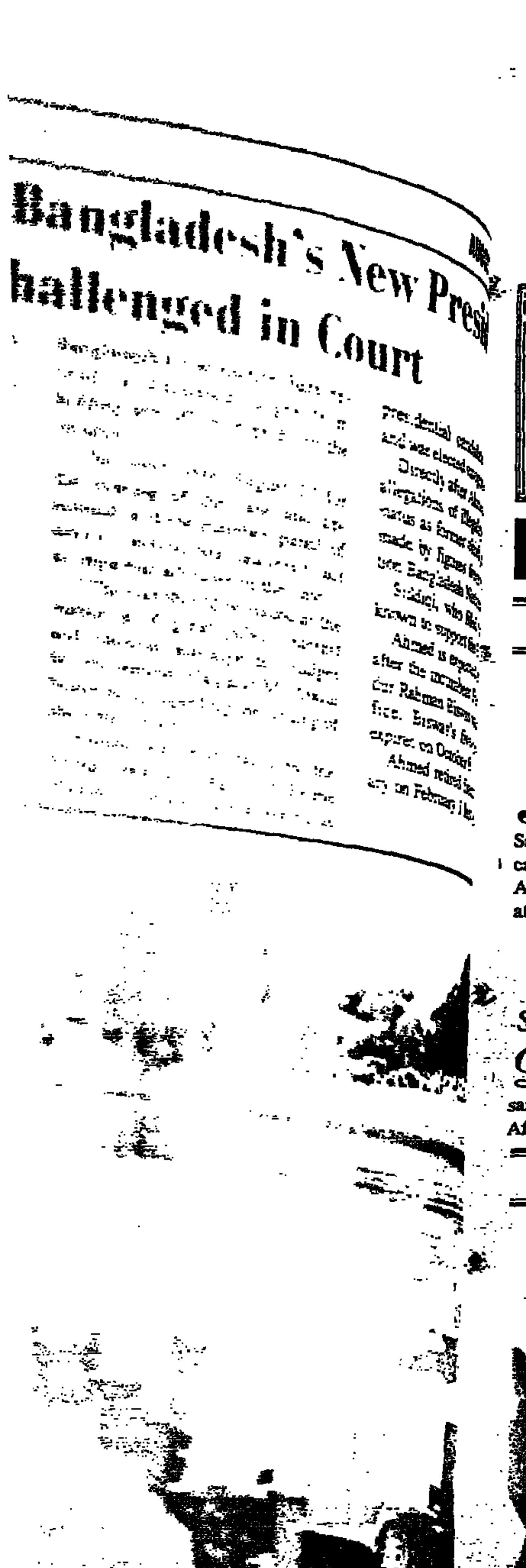
Dole has called for a "tolerance" amendment to the party platform to include abortion rights advocates and suggested that smoking was not addictive.

The party's vocal abortion foes have threatened a mutiny at the August 12-15 convention and the Clinton campaign has gleefully sent "butt man" to every Dole event charging him with selling out to the cigarette companies.

Though his official coronation will be at the convention in San Diego, Dole wrapped up enough delegates in March to win the nomination he sought unsuccessfully in 1980 and 1988.

He also ran as vice president in 1976 under then President Gerald Ford who lost the race to Democrat Jimmy Carter.

(AFP)


Bangladesh's New Presi
hallenged in Court



TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 1996; MORDAD 18, 1375; RABIUL-AWAL 22, 1417



The World This Week

WORLD NEWS

Wednesday July 31

U.S., Saudis Agree to Move Coalition Forces

The United States announced it had reached agreement with Saudi authorities to urgently relocate U.S. and allied troops in Saudi Arabia to shield them from further attacks.

Regional States Impose Economic Sanctions on Burundi

Delegates to regional summit decided to impose economic sanctions against the tiny central African state of Burundi.

Thursday August 1

Netanyahu Held Secret Talks With King Hussein



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked Jordan's King Hussein to mediate in peace talks with Syria when two leaders met secretly in London.

Aidid Passes Away

Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid died in Mogadishu from wounds sustained in factional fighting.

Friday August 2

Burundi Unveil Its Post-Coup Government

Burundi got a fresh government, nine days after Major Pierre Buyoya claimed the presidency in a military-backed coup, with Hutus joining Tutsis in what the new regime regards as a major step towards national reconciliation.

Saturday August 3

EU Says Mostar Talks Failed

The European Union said that its intense negotiation with Muslims and Croats in the divided city has failed.

U.S. Forces on Full Alert in Saudi Arabia



Defense Secretary William Perry said that the United States is bracing for more attacks in Saudi Arabia, putting its forces there on the highest state of alert and instructing commanders to prepare for an imminent attack.

Sunday August 4

Sri Lankan Troops Take Tiger Positions

Hundreds of government soldiers advanced towards the headquarters of Tamil Tiger guerrillas near Kilinochchi in the north against fierce resistance.

Aidid's Son Elected to Succeed Him

The Faction of slain warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid elected his son Hussein, 35, to succeed him, the faction's radio station reported.

Baghdad Criticizes Ankara's Support for Allied Operation

Iraq criticized the Turkish Parliment's decision to renew a mandate allowing U.S., British and French warplanes to use Turkish bases to impose a no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

Monday August 5

Israel Ready for Immediate Peace Talks With Syria

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in Amman that his country was ready for immediate and comprehensive peace with Syria.

Death Sentence Sought for Ex-Dictator



Prosecutors demanded death for former South Korean dictator Chun Doo-Hwan and life imprisonment for his successor Roh Tae-woo for their roles in a military and a notorious massacre.

Opposition Leader Sends Lawyers to Answer Summons



Embattled opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri sent a team of lawyers to police headquarters in Jakarta where she had been summoned for questioning in a case involving alleged slander of President Suharto.

France, Britain Warn of Reprisals Over U.S. Sanctions Bill

France warned of retaliation over threatened U.S. sanctions on non-U.S. companies trading with states Washington baselessly accuses of sponsoring terrorism such as Iran, was signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

Last-Ditch Talks to Find Mostar Solution



Intense last-minute talks resumed to try to break the deadlock Mostar with just hours before the European Union decided whether to pull out of the divided southern city.

Clinton Signs Bill for Tougher Sanctions on Iran, Libya



President Bill Clinton signed the bill to tighten sanctions against foreign companies investing in the Iranian and Libyan oil and gas industries.

Tuesday August 6

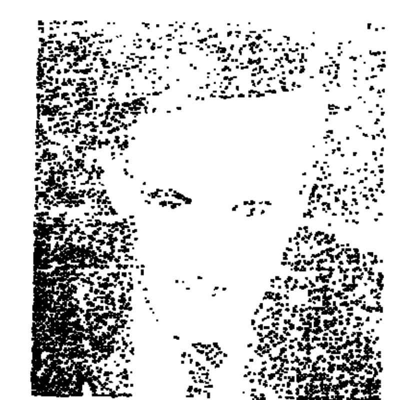
Blast on Route of Russian PM's Car

An explosion went off on a major road into Moscow shortly before Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's car drove by but nobody was injured, the Federal Security Service said.

Russian Far East Miners Return to Work

Miners in Russia's Far East returned to work to end a strike of nearly three weeks after being promised wages owed to them, Interfax news agency reported, citing local management.

Syria Rejects Israel's Offer of Peace Talks



Syria rejected an invitation from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to resume immediate peace talks, criticizing it as "hardly serious."

Japan Says U.S. Sanctions Violates WTO Rules

Japan's Foreign Ministry said that U.S. sanctions against foreign companies investing in Iran and Libya were "regrettable" and in possible violation of World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

LOCAL NEWS

Wednesday July 31

President Pardons Would-Be Assassin



In a letter to Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani pardoned a man who fired shots at him at the Mausoleum of Imam Khomeini.

Velayati Confers With Bosnian Premier

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati who attended the gathering of the Contact Group of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Geneva, conferred with the Bosnian Prime Minister.

Thursday August 1

9th Int'l Islamic Unity Conference Opens



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani opened the 9th International Islamic Unity Conference. Some 90 thinkers from 35 countries participated in the Conference.

Leader Pardons 263 Inmates

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (S) and the sixth Imam of his Household, Imam Jafar Sadeq (AS), the leader of Islamic Revolution granted amnesty to 263 inmates.

Friday August 2

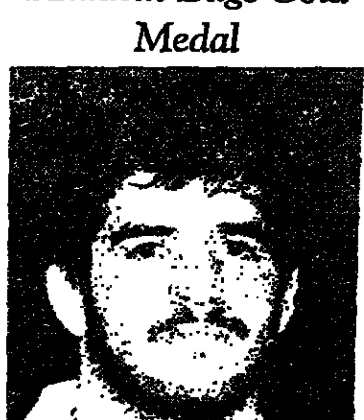
Rafsanjani: U.S. Anti-Iran Policies Defeated

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani termed anti-Iranian stance of the United States as a " defeated policy".

Iran's Proposals Approved at OIC Meeting

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said that proposals made by the Islamic Republic of Iran was approved at the meeting of Contact Group of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on Bosnia.

Khadem Bags Gold Medal



The Islamic Republic of Iran won its first wrestling gold in the free style competition which ended in Atlanta.

Saturday August 3

Leader: Islamic Ideology Attracting Masses in Materialistic

Supreme leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, congratulated the peoples of the world, particularly the Muslim community, and said the sacred existence of the Prophet Mohammad (S) was the best divine blessing ever bestowed upon mankind.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the statement on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) in an address to the visiting heads of the three powers, government officials, political representatives of Islamic countries in Iran, and the guests participating in the Islamic Unity Conference.

Iran Warns UN on Dangerous Consequences of U.S. Threats



Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in a letter to UN chief on Saturday warned the international body the dangerous consequences of recent U.S. threat against Iran and called for necessary measures to prevent it.

Monday August 5

Development of Remote Areas Is Materialization of Social Justice



Ten more development and industrial projects were inaugurated in this southwestern city by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Mohammadi: U.S. Measures Against Int'l Rules

Spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry Mahmoud Mohammadi said here that Washington's insistence on adoption of measures against international protocols and free trade principles was a challenge to the realities of the present-day world. He said such measures would isolate the U.S. administration.

هكذا من الأصل

Do You Believe in Astrology?

In 1804, a British astrologer predicted: "If the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon ever meet in battle, Napoleon will be vanquished and will never lead another army to field." That was 11 years before the Battle of Waterloo.

In 1948, almost no one gave President Harry Truman any chance at reelection. But, born with his Sun in Taurus in 1884, he was due to have a solar eclipse oppose his natal Sun in early November 1948, which suggested a dramatic election. So, in the spring of that year, astrologer Charles Jayne forecast that in contest between Thomas Dewey and Truman, the latter would win. You know who did.

On the other hand, astrologers predicted worldwide floods for 1186 and 1524. The floods did not come. On February 5, 1962, great crowds of Hindu holy men sat up all night waiting for the end of the world – Predicted by Indian astrologers from a conjunction of six planets, the sun and the moon in the sign of Capricorn. In 1939, leading British astrologers predicted that there would be no war in the near future. A survey of predictions by the three most popular British astrologers in one carefully monitored year showed that out of 30 tries the most accurate was right 12 times, the least four times.

Many people would *like* to believe in astrology. They feel that it would be wonderful to know the good things in advance, so as to count on them; and useful to know the bad things in advance, so as to minimize them.

Today, millions of people follow the 5,000-year-old art of astrology, plotting their lives in harmony with the heavens. "Most people won't admit they believe in it," says one astrologer, "But ten out of ten know the Sun sign they were born under."

Star studied. Astrology originated with the Babylonians, who charted the movements of the planets from their temples. In those days, horoscopes – or charts showing the positions of the planets at the moment a person is born – were cast only for the king, and used only for predictions about high affairs of state. Today, they are for anyone.

The starting point for a horoscope is the subject's moment of birth, plus the latitude and longitude of the birthplace – easily determined from the atlas. Time of birth is converted into "true local time" by adding or subtracting four minutes for each degree of longitude that your birthplace lies to the east or west of the center of your time zone. [For example, the center of the Greenwich Mean Time zone runs through London. If you were born in Axminster, exactly three degrees to the west, you subtract twelve minutes from your time of birth.] Next, consulting an "ephemeris" (a reference book that gives the positions of the planets in relation to the earth for each day of past or future years), you convert this "true local time" into "sidereal" or star time. And, checking this "star time" in an astrological table, you find the name of your "ascendant" – the "sign " that is rising on the eastern horizon at the moment of your birth.

The horoscope itself consists of two concentric circles. The inner one is divided like the face of a clock, into 12 fixed parts, or "houses." The outer band is also divided into 12 segments – corresponding to 12 different times of the year. Here you find not only the zodiac sign you were born under but also your ascendant, which is usually different. To chart your horoscope, you align your ascendant with the "nine o'clock" point on the inner circle of houses – the exact positioning, or fine tuning, dictated by your star time. And your ascendant then is said to control your "first house," the one located between eight and nine o'clock. This house represents outward personality, the face you present of the world. The other signs of the zodiac follow in rigid and ancient order. If your ascendant is, say, Capricorn, then the ruling sign of the second house is Aquarius; of the third, Pisces; and on through the rest of the zodiac – Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio and Sagittarius.

Interpretations vary, although the second house is generally said to control money; the third, education; the fourth, home; the fifth, sex and other pleasures; the sixth, health and work methods; the seventh, marriage; the eighth, death; the ninth, the life of the intellect; the tenth, social and professional rank; the eleventh, friendships; and the twelfth, assorted troubles such as illness and disgrace. Once each house has been given its ruling sign, you enter, from the ephemeris, the positions of the sun, moon and planets at the time of your birth – and your horoscope is complete.

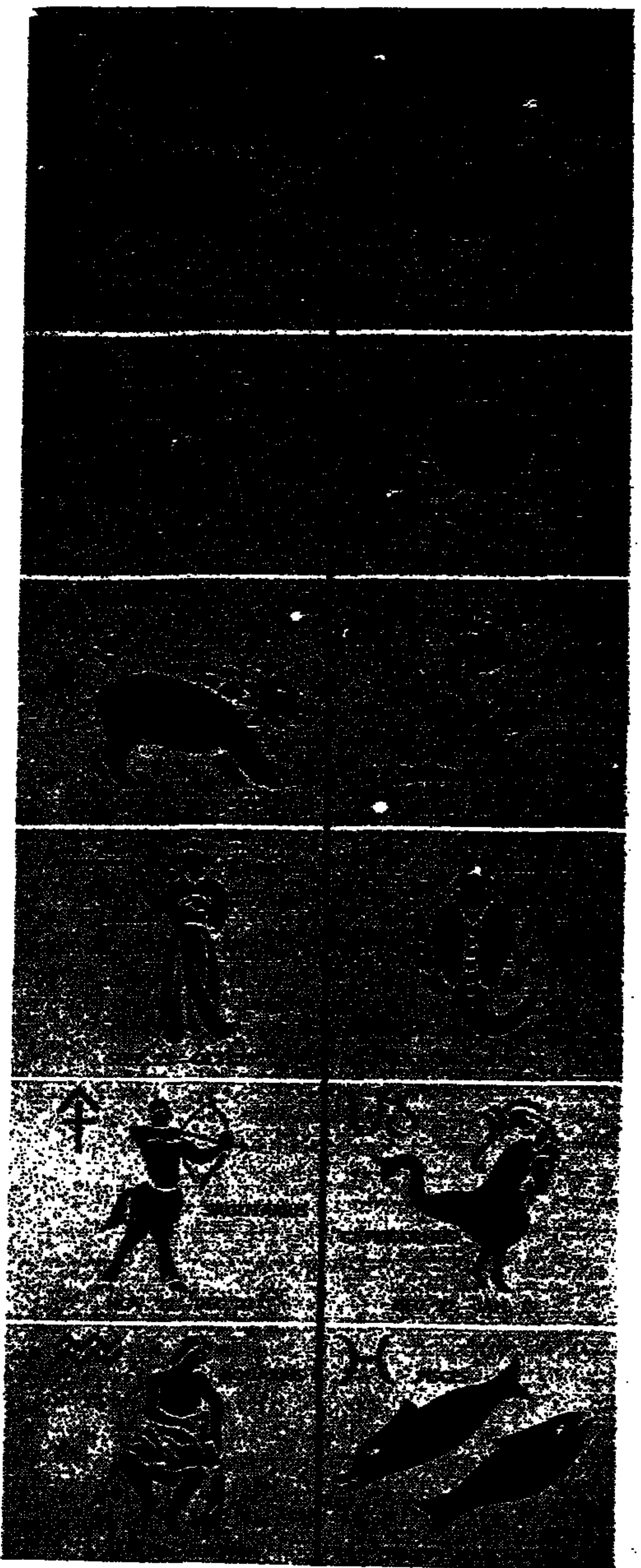
Each planer has its own characteristic influence. For the ancients, the dread ones were Saturn, the cold planet of death, and Mars, the planet of war. Jupiter (optimism) and Venus (love) had happier influences.

While any horoscope contains a bewildering number of different sign-and-planet relationships, the ancients ignored most of these, and cut right to the bone. In his *Tetrabiblos*, the original sourcebook on astrology – incorporating lore going back to the Babylonians – the Greek astronomer Ptolemy bluntly predicted "death by beheading" or "death by slaughter or suicide," for any man, woman or child who happened to have the dread malefics at the wrong place in his chart. Modern astrology , with its large and contradictory body of lore, is sophisticated and much less specific.

Saint Thomas Aquinas held that the planets influenced the passions, but that through his intellect man could arrange his life in harmony with the planets.

Today astrologers talk of such things as a "developed" or an "undeveloped" Capricorn – referring to an individual's ethical and moral standards. "A man with a dominant Mars, which is the sign of the knife, might be a murderer," says one astrologer. Yet, if semideveloped, he might be a butcher and, if fully developed, a surgeon."

The advice of a good modern astrologer would be to get your chart drawn up, and keep an eye on "transits" (those times when a planet passes over a sensitive place in your horoscope). For example, when an evil planet such as Saturn transits a point in exact opposition to the point of your ascendant, you might be well advised to avoid work and family crises, and get away for a week's holiday. If Venus is prominent, think about romance.



Fact or Fiction. The key question remains: Does astrology work, or is it merely superstitious nonsense? Pure astrologers point to some astonishing auguries: Every 20 years the planets Saturn and Jupiter come close together in the heavens, an event known as a conjunction. For 120 years, every U.S. president inaugurated in the year of this conjunction has died in office: William Henry Harrison (who took office in 1841), Lincoln (1861), Garfield (1881), McKinely (1901), Harding (1921), Franklin Roosevelt (1941), Kennedy (1961). Four out of the seven were murdered.

A most exhaustive study of specific horoscopes and their subjects' case histories was made by a French psychologist, Michel Gauquelin, in the 1950s. He analyzed about 24,000 horoscopes, and concluded – to his surprise, since he was a nonbeliever – that on certain points his survey coincided with traditional belief. Clergymen, for instance, by more than a statistical average, had in their charts a prominent Jupiter (the optimistic planet), and sportsmen had a strong Mars (the planet of daring and war).

But even true believers have never really got round what is called "the twin problem." Why do so many fraternal twins, endowed with identical horoscopes, develop such strikingly different personalities?

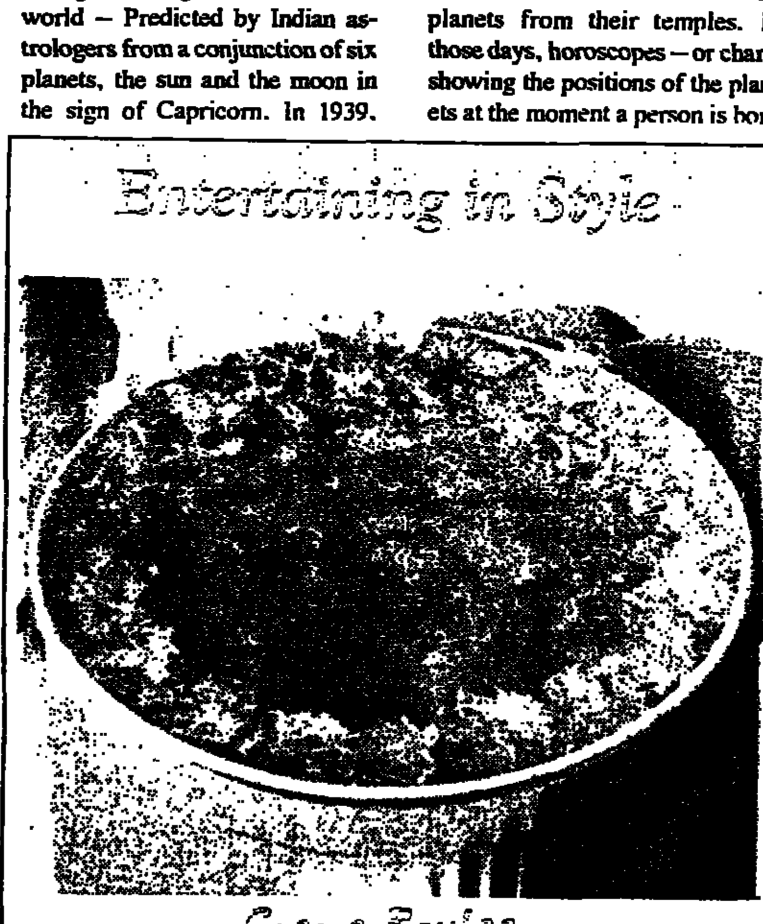
In his *Confessions*, Saint Augustine declared that he had given up belief in astrology upon learning that a wealthy landowner and a slave on the same estate had been born at exactly the same time.

How shall we make our private decision about astrology? Shall we agree with Shakespeare that "the fault... is not in our stars, but in ourselves"? Or with astrologist Caroll Righter, who says, "The stars impel; they do not compel"?

Is the answer to the future up there, in the stars? More people than care to admit it think so.

(Courtesy the Reader's Digest)

Entertaining in Style



Creme Brulee

You will need...

For the cream custard:
4 egg yolks
2 oz. castor sugar
1/2 point double cream
1/2 pint single cream
few drops vanilla essence
For the caramel topping:
3 oz. granulated sugar
3 tablespoons water

Preparation time
20 minutes

Cooking time
45 minutes

Oven setting
290 °F: gas mark 1

Blend together egg yolks and sugar. Pour cream on to egg mixture, stir in a few drops of vanilla essence. Strain custard into a 1 1/2-pint serving dish.

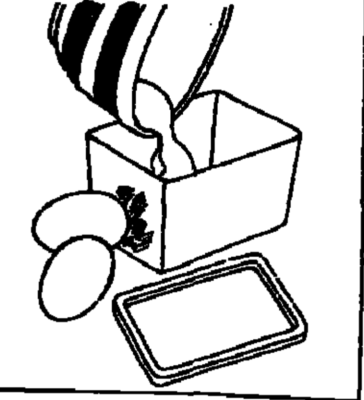
Stand dish in a meat tin containing 1-inch of hot water. Bake custard for 45 minutes or until just firm in a very cool oven. Leave in a refrigerator or other cold place overnight.

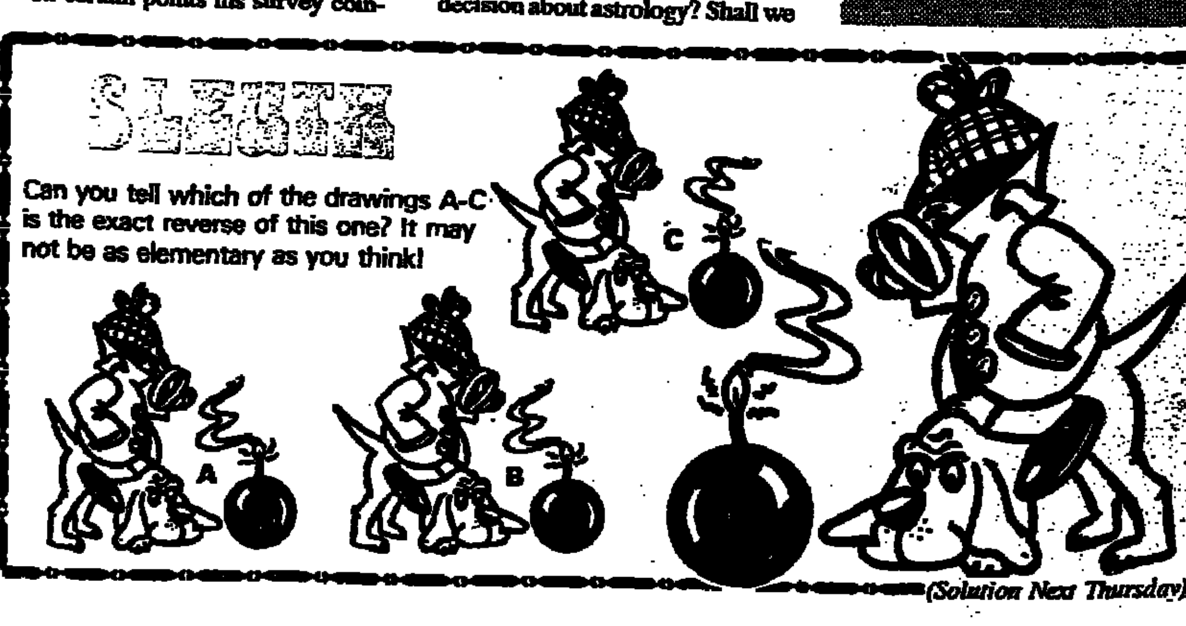
Next day make caramel. Put sugar and water in heavy pan dissolve over a low heat then boil rapidly until a pale caramel color. Quickly pour three-quarters of caramel over top of the custard and pour the remainder on to a well oiled tray. When set crush and arrange round edge of dish.

Serves 4.

QUICK TIP

To keep spare egg whites, put in a lidded jar in the refrigerator and use for meringues within two weeks. If you lose count of how many egg whites are in the jar, four egg whites are in the jar, four egg whites are about 1/4-pint and to this, for meringues, add 8 oz castor sugar.





Answers to last week's
CLOWN CAPERS
The matching clowns are: 1-B, 2-C, 3-D. No. 2 is missing and has been replaced with [illegible]

Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: *Philippines*

The Fiesta Islands

An archipelago of 7,107 islands, the Philippines stretches from the south of China to the northern tip of Borneo. The islands are divided into three main groups: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Their discovery in 1521 by Ferdinand Magellan marked the beginning of the Spanish regime in the Philippines which lasted for 333 years. After the Spaniards came other colonizers who left a colorful and interesting culture of Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Malay and American influences.

Often dubbed the fiesta islands, the Philippines lures tourists with its famous festivals brought to the streets the whole year long.

The festivals invite them to come and witness for themselves the colorful life of the people--in the cities as well as the smaller provinces.

"Fiestas are very much the culture of the Philippines. They are very buoyant occasions and reflect the fun-loving nature of Filipinos.

The Ati-Atihan, or Philippines-style *mardi gras* is the country's wildest and most popular festival. Originally a non-Christian ritual, the Spaniards who came in the 16th century tried to give it a Christian significance such that, later, it was dedicated to the Christ Child.

The streets swim with people dressed in makeshift attire of feathers, coconut shells and palm fronds.

The merry-making includes dancing and gyrating to the beat of bongos, stamping feet and smearing faces with charcoal and soot.

Not a month goes by in the Philippines without some sort of celebration. Filipinos ring in the New Year (January 1) with a midnight feast, *Media Noche*, to welcome a bountiful year. Then, all lights are turned on. Drawers and cupboards are flung open as loud horns and fireworks frighten away evil spirits to make way for the friendly spirits to enter the household.

Fiestas often have religious significance—the water buffalo is saluted in a feast honoring the patron saint of the Filipino farmer, Saint Isidore.



The Ati-Atihan Festival



A colorful Fiesta setting.

The animal is shaved with aesthetic patterns before it is bathed and scrubbed. Its horns are rubbed with oil, its toes manicured and its tail combed, plaited and ribboned. Colorful flowers and ribbons then are added for a grand procession to the town hall and a race across the fields.

Tourists to the Philippines delight in eating Filipino dishes which vary from region to region. Adobo, a special dish combining chicken, soy sauce and vinegar, along with Escabeche, fish served in sweet and sour sauce, and Pancit, a noodle dish with shrimp and vegetables are but a few of the dishes which visitors enjoy eating.

The Philippines' national day is June 12.

Laughter Capsules

Who Would Have Thought

One morning I opened the door to get the newspaper and was surprised to see a strange little dog with out paper in his mouth. Delighted with this unexpected "delivery service," I fed him some treats. The following morning I was horrified to see the same dog sitting in front of our door, wagging his tail, surrounded by eight newspapers.

I spent the rest of that morning returning the papers to their owners.

Working Full Time

FIRST WOMAN: "Working full time and trying to do the housework really get to me. After work I came home and washed the clothes and the dishes. Tomorrow I have to wash the kitchen floor and the front windows..."

SECOND WOMAN: "What about your husband?"

FIRST WOMAN: "Absolutely not! He can wash himself."

Travelogue

The Eighth Wonder of the World

Hidden among the awesome mountains and valleys of the eastern Himalayas, Sikkim remains to this day a land of isolated splendor and spiritual mystery untouched by our modern world. Here the rituals of the past continue unbroken and our subconscious dreams of magical kingdoms and living Buddhas can take unhindered flight. While a visit to this proud land carries no promise of luxury, the rich reward of its natural beauty, and its colorful people and their culture, more than compensates.

Whether one arrives in Sikkim by air or land, it is the mountains that first strike one's eyes and heart. Foremost is Khangchendzong, at 8603 meters the tallest mountain in the world. It dominates the scenery from all directions and is the "axis" on which all Sikkim turns. This is true not only physically but also religiously, for the mountain is sacred and is worshipped as a protective deity. When the clouds part to reveal its snowy peaks, you need be no believer in mythology to feel your spirits soar.

Surrounded by Nepal, India, Tibet and Bhutan, Sikkim has long been a crossroads to brave merchants, pilgrims and holy men who have risked their lives wandering the steep and winding paths from Central Asia and Tibet down to the valley of the Ganges and back again in search of wealth or enlightenment. Today Sikkim is a state of India, but as recently as 1975 it was an independent kingdom that had been ruled by the same family since the 17th century.

One of the strangest quirks in history occurs when certain traditions disappear in the land of their origin, only to survive elsewhere. As we know, this was the case of Buddhism, which all but perished in India but continued to flourish in Tibet—where it did not arrive until almost 1000 years after the birth of the Buddha. It was from Tibet, later still, that Buddhism was introduced to Sikkim by the Tibetan Bhutias, who converted the indigenous Lepcha population and in the 17th century founded the Namgyal dynasty.

The Lepchas, the original people of Sikkim, have their fair share of secrets. A fun-loving people, the majority are farmers, as are the Bhutias. Although Buddhist, they have maintained a separate culture that contains many elements of their ancient animist religion. A certain General Mainwaring, an Englishman who studied their language in the second half of the 19th century, declared that it was one of the most ancient languages in the world and that its structure revealed the system on which all other languages are based. This may be an exaggeration, but it is true that Lepcha is one of those mysterious languages that shares no clear relationship with any ot.

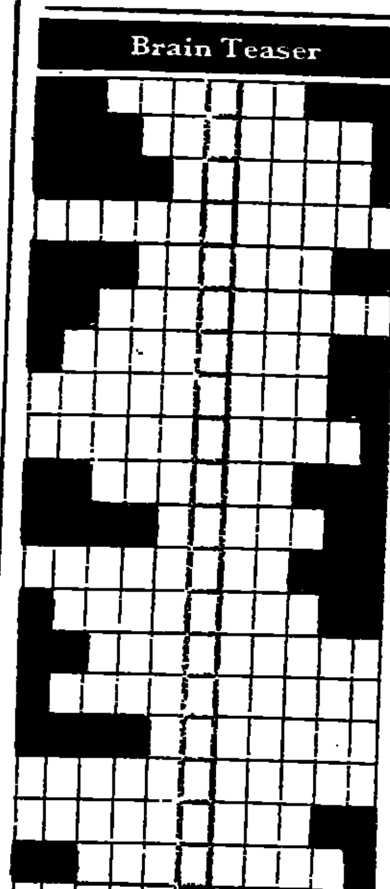
Besides visiting the magnificent natural wonders of Sikkim, one of the most intriguing things to do is to tour the many monasteries. Traditionally, at least one son in every Buddhist family becomes a month. The *gompas* are fabulons places perched on mountainsides. Large, stately structures, their smokey interiors house numerous golden images of the Buddha, Bodhisattvas and saints of Mahayana Buddhism. With the drone of shaven monks as they chant magic mantras, we enter a timeless world in which prayer wheels, ritual thunderbolts, triangular daggers and bells hold sway. (Courtesy of *Silver Kris*, August 1988.)



A festival featuring Sikkim's living Buddhas.

Sikkim, a land of beauty and splendor nestled at the foot of the Himalayas mountains.

Brain Teaser



LADDER WORDS

First airplane flight in 1903 by the ... brothers.

Scottish scientist who discovered penicillin in 1928.

Spanish dictator who died in 1975.

Soviet cosmonaut who was the first man into space in 1961.

City in which John Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

First Labor government was led by James Ramsay ... in 1924.

Famous small British fighter plane used in World War II.

World's worst nuclear reactor accident happened here in 1986.

Martin ... . civil rights leader assassinated in 1968.

He led the Indian struggle for independence.

Nasser became president of this country in 1956.

He published his general theory of relativity in 1915.

Russian tsar was executed with his family in 1918.

Model T car produced in 1912 by ... ...

He commanded the victorious troops at El Alamein in 1942.

... Bhutto became prime minister of Pakistan in 1988.

The unseeded player who became the youngest ever Men's Winbledon Champion in 1985.

Suffragette who formed the Women's Social and Political Union in 1903.

He led the Rhodesian Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965.

The first atomic bomb was dropped on this city in 1945.

20TH CENTURY

All the clues given are connected with the 20th century. Working from left to right across the grid, fill in the missing words to complete the clues. As you work your way down the grid, the ladder will reveal the names of two former American presidents. (Answers will appear next week)

ANSWERS to TRIO-TEASERS (Pg. 3, July 25, 1996)

REA	SON	ING
EMP	HAS	ISE
LIT	ERA	LLY
UNI	FOR	MED
CON	FRO	NTS
ART	ILL	ERY
THR	EAT	ENS
COL	LAP	SES
MOO	DIN	ESS

Answer: Sheffield

1960 - United Nations demands evacuation of Belgian troops from Congo.

1964 - Turkish planes attack Cyprus.

1965 - City of Singapore withdraws from Federation of Malaysia and becomes independent state.

1974 - U.S. President Richard M. Nixon announces his resignation, under threat of impeachment.

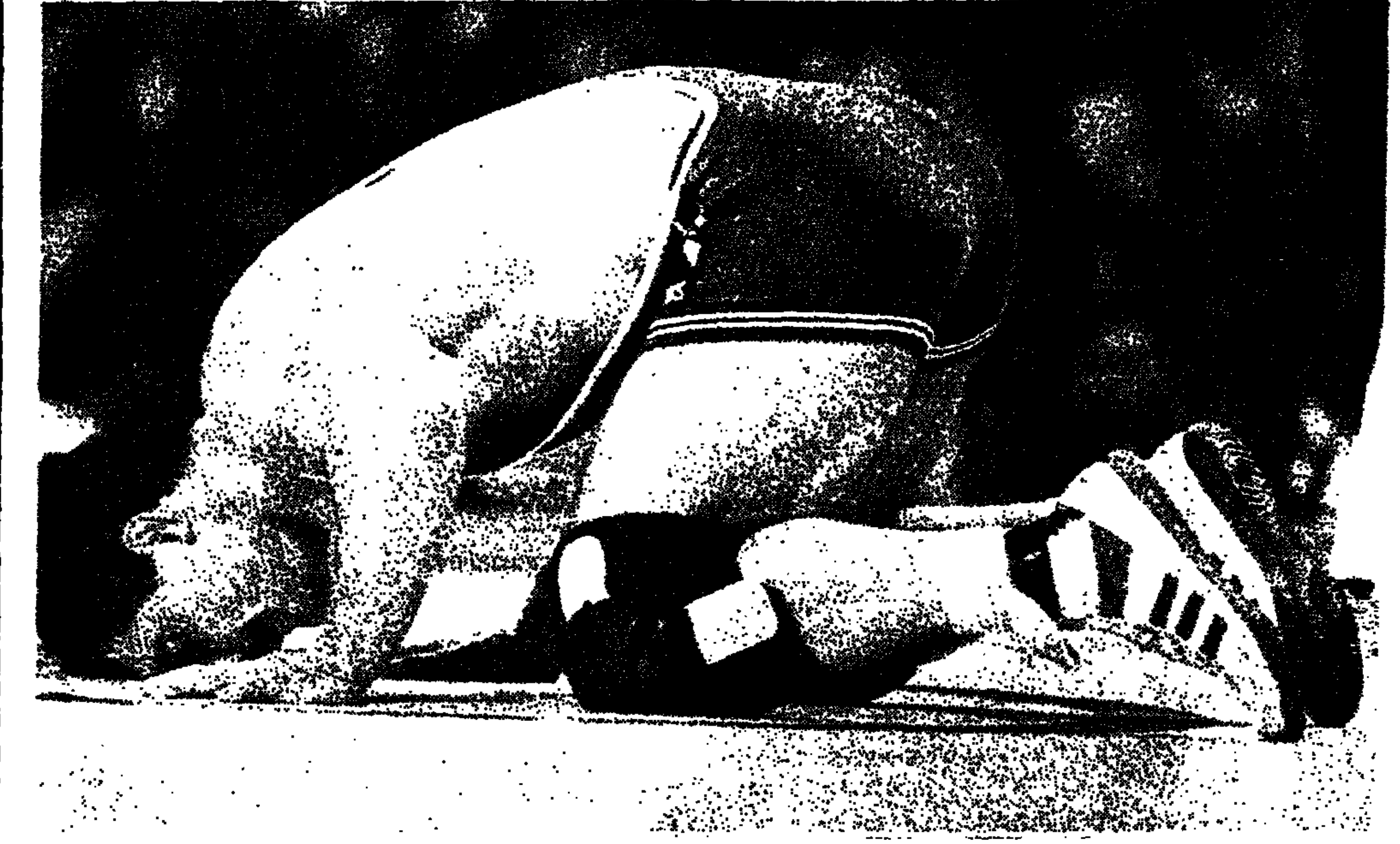
1990 - Iraq formally annexes Kuwait after U.S. President George Bush says Iraq must vacate that country and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher orders British Air and Naval Forces to Persian Gulf at King Fahd's request.

1992 - President Denis Sassou-Nguesso loses his seat in Congo's first presidential election since 1963.

1993 - Four U.S. servicemen are killed in Somalia when a mine destroys their vehicle.

1994 - Israel and Jordan open first road linking the two nations.

CANDID CAMERA



TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1990 - UN Security Council declares Iraq's annexation of Kuwait null and void in 15-0 vote, and Iraq seals its borders declaring that only foreign diplomats will be allowed to leave, raising concern about thousands of foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait.

1991 - Hundreds of police use guns and tear gas to battle pro-apartheid activies who tried to stop presidetn F. W. de Klerk from speaking in Ventersdorp, South Africa.

1992 - An explosion in Es-Sanour destroys a city hall run by a government-installed administrator in Algeria.

1993 - The NATO allies, seeking an end to the siege of Sarajevo, are ready to bomb Bosnian Serb positions if UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali gives them the go-ahead.

1994 - Hijackers killed a Cuban navy lieutenant and forced four sailors overboard before setting sail in the commandeered vessel for the United States.

Only the Dead Know Brooklyn

By Thomas Wolfe

Dere's no guy livin' dat knows Brooklyn t'oo an' t'roo, because it'd take a guy a lifetime just to find his way aroun' duh f — town.

So like I say, I'm waitin' for my train t' come when I sees dis big guy standin' deh — dis is duh foist I eveh see of him. Well, he's lookin' wild, y'know, an' I can see dat he's had plenty, but still he's holdin' it; he talks good an' is walkin' straight enough. So den, dis big guy steps up to a little guy dat's standin' deh an' says, "How d'yuh get t' Eighteent' Avenoo an' Sixty-sevent' Street?" he says.

"Jesus! Yuh got me, chief," duh little guy says to him. "I ain't been heah long myself. Where is duh place?" he says. "Out in duh Flatbush sections somewhere?"

"Nah," duh big guy says. "It's out in Bensonhoist. But I was neveh deh befoeh. How d'yuh get deh?"

"Jesus," duh little guy says, scratchin' his head, y'know — yuh could see duh little guy didn't know his way about — "yuh got me, chief. I neveh hoid of it. Do any of youse guys know where it is?" he says to me.

"Sure," I says. "It's out in Bensonhoist. Yuh take duh Fourt' Avenoo express, get off a Fifty-nint' Street, change to a Sea Beach local deh, get off at Eighteent' Avenoo an Sixty-told, an' den walk down foeh blocks. Dat's all yuh got to do," I says.

"G'want!" some wise guy dat I neveh seen befoeh pipes up. "Whatcha talkin' about?" he says — oh, he was wise, y'know. "Duh guy is crazy! I tell yuh what yuh do," he says to duh big guy. "Yuh change to duh West End line at Toity-sixt'," he tells him. "Get off at Noo Utrecht and Sixteent' Avenoo," he says. "Walk two blocks oveh, foeh blocks up," he says, "an' you'll be right deh." Oh, a *wise* guy, y'know.

"Oh, yeah?" I says. "Who told you so much?" He got me sore because he was so wise about it. "How long you been livin' heah?" I says.

All my life," he says. "I was bawn in Williamsboig," he says. "An' I can tell you t'ings about dis town you neveh hoid of," he says.

"Yeah?" I says.

"Yeah," he says.

"Well, den, you can tell me t'ings about dis town dat nobody else has eveh hoid of, either. Maybe you make it all up yoehself at night," I says, "befoeh you go to sleep — like cuttin' out papeh dolls, or somp'n."

"Oh, yeah?" he says. "You're pretty wise, ain't yuh?"

"Oh, I don't know," I says. "Duh bodies ain't usin' my head for Lincoln's statue yet," I says. "But I'm wise enough to know a phony when I see one."

"Yeah?" he says. "A wise guy, huh? Well, you're so wise dat someone's goin' t'bust yuh one right on duh snoot some day," he says. "Dat's how wise *you* are."

Well, my train was comin', or I'da smacked him den and deer: but when I seen duh train was comin', all I said was, "All right, mug! I'm sorry I can't stay to take keh of you, but I'll be seein' yuh sometimes, I hope, out in duh cemetery." So den I says to duh big guy, who'd been standin' eh all duh time, "You come wit me," I says. So when we gets on to duh train I says to him, "Where yuh goin' out in Bensonhoist?" I says. "What number are yuh lookin' for?" I says. *You* know — I t'ough if he told me duh address I might be able to help him out.

"Oh," he says, "I'm not lookin' for no one. I don't know no one out deh."

"Then watch a goin' out deh for?" I says.

"Oh," duh guy says, "I'm just goin' out to see duh place," he says. "I like duh sound of duh name — Bensonhoist, y'know — so I t'ought I'd go out an' have a look at it."

"Whatcha a tryin' t'hand me?" I says. "Whatcha tryin' t'do — kid me?" *You* know I t'ought duh guy was bein' wise wit me.

"No," he says, "I'm tellin' yuh duh troop. I like to go out an' take a look at places wit nice names like dat. I like to go out an' look at all kinds of places," he says.

"How'd yuh know deh was such a place," I says, "if yuh neveh been deh befoeh?"

"Oh," he says, "I got a map."

"A *map*?" I says.

"Sure," he says, "I got a map dat tells me about all dese places. I take it wit me every time I come out heah," he says.

And Jesus! Wit dat, he pulls it out of his pocket, an' so help me, but he's *got* it — he's tellin' duh troot — a big map of duh whole f — place with all duh different paths mahked out. You know Canarsie an' East Noo Yawk and Flatbush, Bensonhoist, Sout' Brooklyn, duh Heights, Bay Ridge, Green-pernt — duh whole goddamn layout, he's got it right deh on duh map.

"You been to any of dose places?" I says.

"Sure," he says, "I been to most of 'em. I was down in Red Hook just last night," he says.

"Jesus! Red Hook!" I says. "Whatcha do down deh?"

"Oh," he says, "nuttin' much. I just walked aroun'. I went into a coupla places," he says, "but must of the time I just walked aroun'."

"Just walked aroun'?" I says.

"Sure," he says, "just lookin' at t'ings, y'know."

"Where'd yuh go?" I asts him.

"Oh," he says, "I don't know duh name of dut place, but I could find it on my map," he says. "One time I was walkin' across some big fields where deh ain't no houses," he says, "but I could see ships oveh deh all lighted up. Dey was loadin'. So I walks across duh fields," he says, "to where duh sips are."

"Sure," I says, "I know where you was. You was down to duh Erie Basin."

"Yeah," he says, "I guess dat was it. Dey had some of dose big elevators an' cranes an' dey was loadin' ships, an' I could see some ships in dry dock all lighted up; so I walks across duh fields to where dey are," he says.

"Den what did yuh do?" I says.

"Oh," he says, "nuttin' much. I came on back across duh fields after a while an' went into a couple places.

"Didn't nuttin' happen while yuh was in dere?" I says.

"No," he says. "Nuttin' much. A coupla guys in one of duh places stahted a fight, but dey bounced 'em out," he says, "an' den one of duh guys stahted to come back again, but duh bartender gets his baseball bat out from under duh counter; so duh guy goes on."

"Jesus!" I said. "Red Hook!"

"Sure," he says. "Dat's where it was, all right."

"Well, you keep outa deh," I says. "You stay away from deh."

"Why?" he says. "What's wrong wit it?"

"Oh," I says, "it's a good place to stay away from, dat's all. It's a good place to keep out of."

"Why?" he says. "Why is it?"

Jesus! Whatcha gonna do wit a guy as dumb as dat? I saw it wasn't no use to try to tell him nuttin' — he wouldn't know what I was talkin' about; so I just says to him, "Oh, nuttin'. Yuh might get lost down deh, dat's all."

"Lost?" he says. "No, I wouldn't get lost. I got a map," he says.

A map! Red Hook! Jesus!

So den duh guy begins to ast me all kinds of nutty questions: how big was Brooklyn, an' could I find my way aroun' in it, an' how long would it take a guy to know duh place.

"Listen!" I says. "You get dat idea outa yoeh head right now," I says. "You ain't neveh gonna get to know Brooklyn," I says. "Not in a hundred yeahs. I been livin' heah all my life," I says, "an' I don't even know all deh is to know about it, so how do you expect to know duh town," I says, "when you don't even live heah?"

"Yes," he says, "but I got a map to help me find my way about."

"Map or no map," I says, "yuh ain't gonna get to know Brooklyn with no map," I says.

"Can you swim?" he says, just like dat. Jesus! By dat time, y'know, I begun to see dat duh guy was some kind of nut. He'd has plenty to drink, of course, but he had dat crazy look in his eye I don't like. "Can you swim?" he says.

"Sure," I says. "Can't you?"

"No," he says. "Not more'n a stroke or two. I neveh loined good."

"Well, it's *easy*," I says. "All yuh need is a little confidence. Duh way I loined, me older bruddeh pitched me off duh dock, one day when I was eight yeahs old, close an' all. 'You'll swim,' he says. 'You'll swim all right — or drown.' An' believe me, I *swam*! When yuh know yuh got to, you'll do it. Duch only t'ing yuh need is confidence. An' once you've loined," I says, "you've got nuttin' else to worry about. You'll neveh forget it, It's somp'n dat stays with yuh as long as yuh live."

"Can yuh *swim* good?" he says.

"Like a fish," I tells him. "I'm a regular fish in duh wateh," I says. "I loined to swim right off duh docks with all duh oddeh kids," I says.

"What would you do if yuh saw a man drownin'?" duh guy says.

"Do? Why, I'd jump in an' pull him out," I says. "Dat's what I'd do."

"Did yuh eveh see a man drown?" he says.

"Sure," I says. "I see two guys — bot' time at Coney Island. Dey got out too far, an' neider one could swim. Dey drowned befoeh anyone could get to 'em."

"What becomes of people after dey've drowned out heah?" he says.

"Drowned out where?" I says.

"Out heah in Brooklyn."

"I don't know whatcha mean," I says. "Neveh hoid of no one drownin' heah in Brooklyn, unless you mean a swimmin' pool. Yuh can't drown in Brooklyn," I says. "Yuh gotta drown somewhere else — in duh ocean, where Dere's watch."

"Drownin'," duh guy says, lookin' at his map. "Drownin'." Jesus! I could see by den he was some kind of nut; he had dat crazy expression in his eyes when he looked at you, an' I didn't know what he might do. So we was comin' to a station, an' it wasn't *my* stop, but I got off anyway, an' waited for duh next train.

"Well, so long, chief," I says. "Take it easy, now."

"Drownin'," duh guy says, lookin' at his map. "Drownin'."

Jesus! I've t'ought about dat guy a t'ousand times since den an' wondered what eveh happened to 'm goin' out to look at Bensonhoist because he liked duh name! Walkin' aroun' t'roo Red Hook by himself at night an' lookin' at his map! How many people did I see get drowned out heah in Brooklyn! How long would it take a guy wit a good map to know all deh was to know about Brooklyn!

Jesus! What a nut *he* was! I wondeh what eveh happened to 'im, anyway! I wondeh if someone knocked him on duh head or if he's still wanderin' aroun' in duh subway in duh middle of duh night wit his little map! Duh poor guy! Say, I've got to laugh, at dat, when I t'ink about him! Maybe he's found out by now dat he'll neveh live long enough to know duh whole of Brooklyn. It'd take a guy a lifetime to know Brooklyn t'roo an' t'roo. An' even den, yuh wouldn't know it all.



